

# Florida WILDLIFE

SPECIAL NATURAL  
HISTORY ISSUE

THOSE BUSY BEES

PAHAYOKEE

JULY, 1957

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS





# FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

## Fishing Citation

"for that BIG ONE that DIDN'T get away"

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

Citation, showing recorded data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

The receipt of any and all photographs pertaining to the registered catch, including the applicant and the fish, will be appreciated by the editor for use in Florida Wildlife Magazine.

Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

### SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 pound or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

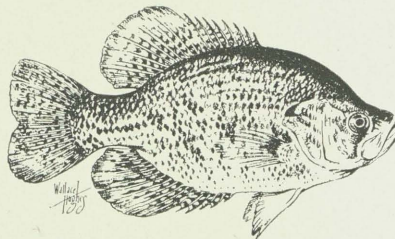
\_\_\_\_\_ 2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 1/2 pounds or larger



CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Species of Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle, Bait Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Catch Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)



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Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

★

**Dedicated to the  
Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game and Fish**

★

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#### INCHON TO FLORIDA

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is my renewal to your very informative magazine. I have been enjoying it for two years now and expect to keep on taking it.

I am now anxiously awaiting orders to duty in Florida where I expect to remain after retirement from the U. S. Navy.

J. H. Davenport  
Inchon, Korea

#### NO BOUNDARIES

Dear Editor:

I give up, I give in. Of course, I received your notice that my subscription to *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* was about to run out. But, you see, I'm in the Navy and have received orders to the other side of the continent. I tried to tell myself that I would have no use for a magazine written in and about Florida Wildlife.

But then my April issue arrived—my last copy under the old subscription, as you pointed out. I was half way through its articles when I realized that your magazine is so well written that its information crosses all geographical boundaries. Other sport and fishing magazines have gone stale with rehashed old theories and become stuffed with advertising. Such articles as "Revolt Afloat", and Chuck Schilling's pages (Rock-

ing the Boat remarks is the first sensible thing ever written on the subject) are words dear to the heart of any fisherman—anywhere. "Living Symbols of Easter Legends" and your earlier article on Biblical bird legends have found a permanent place in my file (I am a Navy Chaplain).

Keep up the honesty, interest, and good-common-senseness of your editorial policy and you will have a reader no matter where I am.

Warren L. Bost  
El Toro, Santa Anna, Calif.

#### DISAGREES

Gentlemen:

I have just read your April issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*. I enjoyed it very much.

In the section "Strikes and Backlashes" Robert Horton from Chicago, Illinois said "I have spent all kinds of money for licenses but shot only a few squirrels and ducks. There just doesn't seem to be enough places in Central Florida to hunt."

I wish to disagree with Mr. Horton. I am from Central Florida on the Gulf Coast. I've hunted since I was nine years old. I have killed deer, turkey, ducks, quail, squirrels, dove, racoons, opossums, fox, and other game.

I'm in the Navy now but still kill my share of game during the season. If he is

in Florida the first of the season tell him he can get his share of game in Homosassa.

Butch Trotter  
Homosassa, Fla.

#### RECORD RATTLER?

Dear Sir:

I have noted in the newspapers and different magazines here of late where they have been capturing what they call large rattlesnakes and with all respect some of them were large ones. As I was going through some of what I call my respected clippings from newspapers etc, I came across this one which I am attaching. As you will note, I have had it quite some time, dates as of March 1927. Thought you might be interested in reprinting it in the *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* magazine.

E. H. Rooks  
Chattahoochee, Fla.

#### "Huge Rattler Killed by Hunters In Leon"

PALATKA, March 28.—The skin of what is believed to be the largest rattler ever seen in the state was exhibited here today by Leo Tyler, of Putnam county, and Milton Jones, of Ponce de Leon Springs.

The skin measured 17 feet and 1 inch, 11 inches across the back with a head spread of 4 inches. The reptile was shot 16 miles from Tallahassee by Jones after Tyler's dogs had startled it. The snake had 36 rattles and a button and is believed to be the great grand daddy of all rattlers."

#### The Cover

### Otter—Playboy of the Swamp

**F**ROM THE MOMENT the otter cub ventures out into the big world from the safe, cosy haven of the den, a light-hearted, rollicking nature dominates the animal's every waking moment. Even a patriarch of the otter tribe never loses completely this delightful sense of frivolity, bellywhopping down steep streambanks, arcing gracefully through the water like a miniature dolphin, and enthusiastically rough housing with others of its kind.

Otter are distributed throughout Florida. Within their annual range they move about as conditions of weather and water make available concentrations of crayfish, molluscs, and various fishes which comprise the bulk of their diet. Although many none-to-well informed anglers heap vindictive upon the otter for its supposed detrimental effect on the game fish population, actually the animal catches relatively few game

fishes, preying much more commonly upon suckers, carp, and other relatively sluggish rough fishes that are more readily available and easier to capture.

At birth the otter cub weighs less than eight ounces. The cubs, averaging three to each annual litter, develop slowly. Their eyes do not open until they are about five weeks of age. Unusual though it may seem for an animal that is so adept in the water, the young must be taught to swim. Their swimming lessons start as soon as they are weaned, the mother forcing the young into the water under strong protest from her reluctant offspring. Within a short time the youngsters overcome their fears and soon feel as much at home in the water as they do ashore.

The otter is Florida's most valuable furbearing animal and a good many pelts are harvested by the state's trappers during the winter season. ●



# The Greatest Show On Earth



Photo by Jim Reed

**T**HE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH; produced and directed by the greatest of them all, Our Lord Himself. The largest number of actors yet to play in any one production, ranging from the tiny field mouse to the great African elephant, the smallest minnow to the famed "Moby Dick", from the most minute insect to the great Canada goose. All of these and untold numbers more play leading roles in the unending twenty-four hour production before your very eyes each minute of every day in your life. Never will this wonderful mystery, adventure, drama and intrigue be topped or even duplicated by anyone. Never has any show been able to combine all these features into one for no human has such power or concept. No one or no group of people could command such an army of performers. Yet, every day we live, great adventures occur in our forests and mountains, on our plains, in our streams, ponds, lakes and oceans. The drama and spine tingling action of two great bull elephants meeting in deadly combat or the mysterious intrigue of the clouds of swallows returning to Capistrano annually for many, many years are only part of this great show.

Sheer wonder of the eagle's ability to soar in the heavens all day if he so desires, or the comedy of two mischievous cubs forever getting into trouble are all part of the drama, mystery, intrigue, wonder and comedy consumed in this display of wildlife.

Did it ever occur to you that if it were not for the lowly snake, the hawk and many other forms of predatory wildlife our homes and the universe would be

By **RALPH VOSS**

INFORMATION - EDUCATION OFFICER  
SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

engulfed by destructive rodents of all descriptions. All forms of wildlife are essential in maintaining a "balance of nature". If it were not for the birds, insects would fill the very air we breathe. The point is this; every form of wildlife has a duty to perform to assure the prosperity of all other forms.

The job of wildlife protection lies in the hands of every human being. If it were not for the human with all his industry, his machinery, and his subordination of interest in the protection of natural resources for himself, wildlife could maintain its own balance. But, because of man's presence it falls upon him to protect the wildlife from himself.

Youngsters observe this greatest show on earth in various manners. Many times the show is far more fascinating than a Roy Rogers movie. A boy's height of eagerness cannot be completely described the day of his first camping trip. The reason is clear. For the first time in his life he is apart from civilization which is all that he has known. He sees for the first time, nature at its best and too, he sees the greatest show on earth.

From this point on, the direction of this youngster's interest is most important. Will he observe the many forms of wildlife and wonder enough to ask thousands of "whys"? Will he develop a love for wildlife in its natural state? Or will he throw rocks at a squirrel to see him run in fright? Will he shoot song birds for the sheer pride of his marksmanship? What will you do the next time you are confronted with the question at hand?

Wildlife populations as we know them today have persisted only because there are conservation-minded people who recognize the importance of wildlife even in the most advanced of civilizations, the most complex of cultures.

The purpose of this story however, is not to discourage totally the killing of wildlife. Hunting has been the source of healthful recreation for centuries. The word conservation does not mean to abstain from killing game. It does mean that a hunter may take to the field, find a covey of quail, shoot a reasonable number of birds, and leave enough of the covey so that they may raise another brood to replenish those that were harvested.

Conservation is everybody's job. People before us were both harsh and kind to wildlife. They have both protected and destroyed species of game. We have learned many things from their mistakes. With the knowledge of conservation and our conscience guiding our actions we may preserve this heritage for those to come after us as those before us have preserved them for us.

This is the greatest show on earth and the show must go on! ●



# JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

**T**HIS COPY IS coming to you from Tallahassee. I am on my way to Biloxi, Mississippi for a convention of the American Association of Conservation Information.

I do hope that all of you are enjoying a beautiful summer vacation. This month starts our period for boys for eight consecutive weeks. Our plans this year include three weeks for girls and eight weeks for boys.

The camp looks beautiful this time of year. Nature really outdoes herself, what with all the green foliage. The trees seem more stately then ever. Wildlife is everywhere and seems to blend well into the natural camouflage of Mother Nature.

Our camp each year takes on new attire what with additions and improvements. This year we have a life-guard chair on the water's edge overlooking our swimming area.

Mr. Herbert Romines generously donated the lifeguard chair for our waterfront safety. If you remember, Mr. Romines is the same gentleman who presented our camp last year with a flag pole.

Thank you so much Mr. Romines and too, your Ocala Moose Lodge for thinking of us.

Our waterfront this year has another improvement. Seats have been installed down by the beach where you can take off your shoes and hang your towel. Additional life-jackets have been added to insure safety for our boating enthusiasts.

## Winter Haven

The Optimists along with Mr. Bob Eller, Asst. Chief of Police are sponsoring a new club in the city of Winter Haven. There are about 30 members and from what I have seen of

this young and enthusiastic group they will be right in the thick of things doing all they can for conservation. In the next issue I will list their officers and adult advisors. My first visit with these young conservationists was May 6 at their local police station. Good luck to all of you and our deepest appreciation to the Optimists.

## St. Augustine

Here is another new club and I have been told that they have a group who are to attend camp. Their officers have been elected and will send two representatives to camp during delegate week. Mr. and Mrs. Ross and I believe the St. Augustine JayCees are to sponsor this club. Our hats are off to these people for their great concern both for human and natural resources.

## Pahokee

Here's an old club just recently reactivated. Unfortunately, my notes are in the Ocala office and I am unable to give you a listing of their officers and members. I believe that there are 36 members. Ten of these are coming to camp and they are sending two delegates. This club was organized sometime ago—1952. At one time, one of the top clubs in the state. Welcome back into our League.

## New Smyrna Beach

Another new club gaining momentum and will soon take its place along with the long established clubs. Several of them are coming to camp and they will also be represented at the Conference week.

## Lake Eaton

For the first time this year we are presenting souvenir programs for our young campers to take home. The program contains four pages and these pages include a place for notes and autographs; also, it lists what things are done while at camp and what goals are accomplished.

Tents are being used this year in addition to our concrete block buildings. Mosquito bar-nets are used over the double bunk beds. There are four squad tents, 16 x 32 and one 16 x 16. Our infirmary this year is in a tent with the hospital beds.



Photo by Jim Reed

Ocala's Oakcrest Elementary School students climax their natural resources conservation study with a Day Camp at Lake Eaton. Douglas Floyd, in photo above, scores points by catching the first fish, a seven inch bluegill, from the camp dock.



## Port St. Joe

Just recently we have heard from this school's club and find that they are active. The club I understand intends to send a group to camp this year.

### Camp Aides

At camp this year there will be two camp aides to assist the director and assistant director. These two aides have been selected because they have accumulated more points than any other Jr. Conservationist in the State. The honor bestowed falls on Lloyd Johnson from Miami a member of the Allapattah Optimist club and David Laird, member of the Ocala Dean Mather Club.

Don't forget to study the requirements needed for your degrees. The first four degrees appeared in the May issue the fifth in the June issue and this issue contains number six and seven.

So long now. I'll be seeing you at camp.

### DEGREE OF THE OTTER

*Requirements for Degree:*

1. Can be member or non member.
2. Reptiles: Identify 10 Florida harmless snakes.
3. Rifle: Gun safety, proper handling, demonstration at rifle range. (5 hours completed).
4. First Aid: Used in woods (bleeding, fractures, gun wounds, snake bites).
5. Shelters:
  - a. Proper handling of Jungle Hammock.
  - b. Construction of lean-to
6. Map making: Complete map of area and Camp. Hiking and trail blazing will be included in this requirement.
7. Give 10 minute lecture on any one game animal found in Florida.
8. Fishing: Catch at least three fish by a method selected below:
  - a. fly casting
  - b. bait casting
  - c. trolling
  - d. bait fishing
9. Must have attended 4 previous encampments at Lake Eaton plus present camping period.
10. Must have received and earned previous degrees at Camp.
11. Must complete one conservation project at Camp to be approved by the Camp Director.

*(Continued on Page 40)*

## school in the woods

By JOHNNIE BRABHAM

**T**HE YOUTH CONSERVATION Education Camp located on beautiful Lake Eaton in the Ocala National Forest was the classroom for sixty-eight sixth grade students from the Oakcrest Elementary School in Ocala, Florida, last April 25. These students and their instructors climaxed a two-week study on conservation of our natural resources and outdoor recreation by putting to practice the things they had been studying.

This Outdoor Education Program started three years ago when Mr. Max McKeown, Principal of Oakcrest School, became interested in a conservation and outdoor education program for his school. As part of the regular school program, a two-week period was set aside for conservation study. Qualified speakers were invited to lecture on first aid, safety, conservation, reptiles, fishing, mapping, and tracking, as well as camping and cooking.

Denver Ste. Claire, Supervisor of Youth Conservation Education for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission invited the class to have

their 1957 Day Camp at Lake Eaton.

The class arrived at Lake Eaton on a school bus at 0900 sharp. The sixty-eight students were divided into four patrols, each having identification banners.

Their first assignment was to prepare an area and gather wood for a fire which would later be used to cook their noon meal. Large piles of fire wood were gathered, four areas were cleared, and patrol flags stationed.

Mrs. Hazel Miller was in charge of the fishing period. The students were issued cane poles and necessary tackle. Each student rigged his or her own line and after a careful inspection by Mrs. Miller proceeded to the water to test their skill. Mrs. Miller was assisted during this period by Mrs. Lindelows, intern from the University of Florida.

The hiking period or scavenger hunt was supervised by Mr. Harrison, Teacher, and Mrs. Deisch, intern. Before each hike insect repellent was applied and the socks of each student were dusted with sul-

*(Continued on Page 42)*

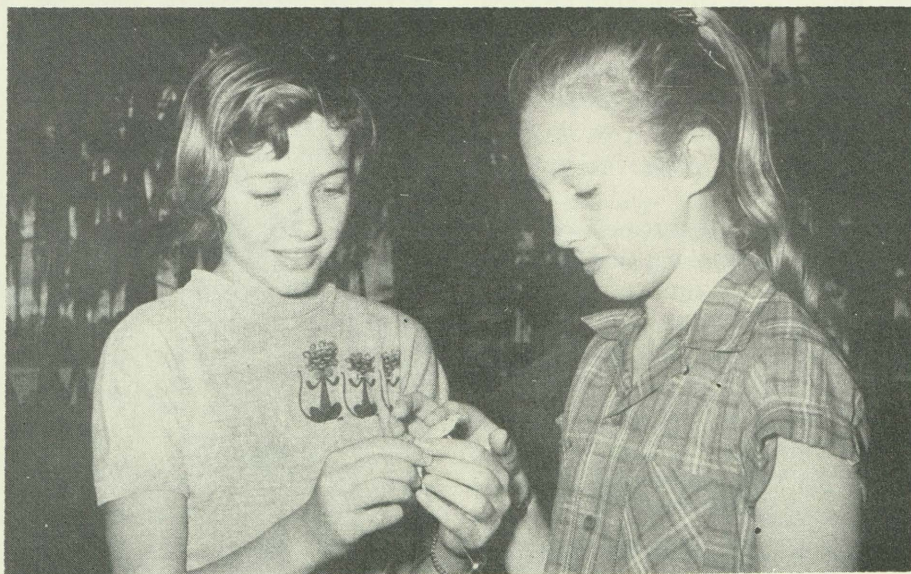


Photo by Jim Reed

Oakcrest Elementary School students Janice Cordrey and Jan Dodd examine a lizard captured in the vicinity of the Conservation Camp at Lake Eaton. During the Day Camp many small animals were collected and examined by the students.





By **CHUCK SCHILLING**



**M**OST ANGLERS are ready to take a fishing vacation at the drop of a hat, or even if someone tips it. Please consider that "Vacation Time" is composed of two words, and taking your "Time" while on "Vacation" is by far the most important part of it. Many vacations are spoiled by trying to cram four weeks' travel and fun into two weeks' time. This results in unnecessary driving risks, in frayed nerves and lost tempers, and it brings the vacationers back home desperately in need of a vacation. What's more, such timetable vacations usually result in little or no fun and relaxation, which should have been the main purpose to begin with.

### Slow Poke

I have only sympathy for the vacationers who brag about the 500 or 600 miles they drive the first day out; who get up at 5 a.m. (they don't get up 'til 6:30 when NOT on vacation) and drive like mad until dark. Of course, by then, most of the overnight accommodations are taken, so they drive wearily from place to place looking for just any vacancy. What fun.

I am a self-styled expert on vacations. I've been taking them regularly and often all my life. My No. 1 rule is "Don't Hurry." While driving on vacation, my wife and I get up at a reasonable time and get off to a leisurely start. We drive along at a moderate pace, investigating anything that looks interesting along the way. About 3:30 p. m., we stop at the best place we can find in or near a small town. We hunt for a motel with a swimming pool. At this early hour, we get our pick of the units and after a swim, we dress and go

into town for a good dinner and to window shop or take in a show. This is the way I like to take a vacation. I can heartily recommend it.

Rule No. 2 is "Eat a Light Lunch." You're not going to burn up much energy sitting in a car watching the scenery go by. If you can stay away from soft drinks and snacks, and if you will keep your lunch light, you'll find you have a much better appetite for dinner, and even a long vacation won't result in indigestion and related problems.

Rule No. 3 is "Go First-Class." Why settle for less, when most of the time, second and third-class places charge just as much as the best? Even when there is a premium for first-class accommodations, it is usually very small. I'll wager the

difference in cost on a two week vacation for two persons, traveling 800 miles by car each way, between first-class accommodations and the cheapest that can be found will be small enough to seem ridiculous. While you can be sure the difference in costs is small, the difference in comfort and enjoyment is very large indeed.

My fourth, and last, vacation rule is "Be Determined to Have a Good Time." This will seem like a silly rule only to people who haven't had much experience. It has always been a mystery to me why people will go on vacation apparently determined NOT to enjoy themselves. These people can be found in every nook and cranny of Vacationland. They can be positively identified by their sour looks, their loud, complaining voices, and the patient, resigned, long-suffering look on the faces of their companions.

Anyone can find something to complain about if he tries hard enough. On vacation (we're supposed to be having fun), I try not to notice those things that seem less than perfect. After all, if you can't be happy with less than the comfort found in your own home, then that is where you should stay. Most disappointments about vacations are self-induced by too great a demand or by unreasonable expectations. If it rains, remember the clouds are just doing what comes naturally. They didn't hunt you up for special treatment. If the fish don't bite, the world won't come to an end. You could concentrate on taking pictures. Many times, the pictures taken on a fishing vacation are of more lasting enjoyment than the fish you caught.



These fish are rainbow trout in the Au Sable River of northern Michigan. On the other side of that fence is one of Michigan's trout breeding ponds, and the odor of chopped liver is driving these wild, unsubdued trout to a frenzy.



## Keep It Clean

One thing you can do on your vacation is to keep it clean. I came upon the rustic sign pictured here in a park alongside a trout stream far up in the north woods, and I have remembered it ever since. Don't be a litterbug. Why foul up the highways with paper and junk thrown from your car, when a paper shopping bag hung on an inside door handle and emptied at a gas station occasionally can give you the satisfaction of being above such low conduct?

When you rent a boat, leave it clean. Carry your trash and lunch paper back to your cottage. Why spoil the looks of the lake and woods? If people would give the same considered treatment to the streets, roads, and outdoors they use while on vacation that they give their own home street and property, there would be very little to complain about.

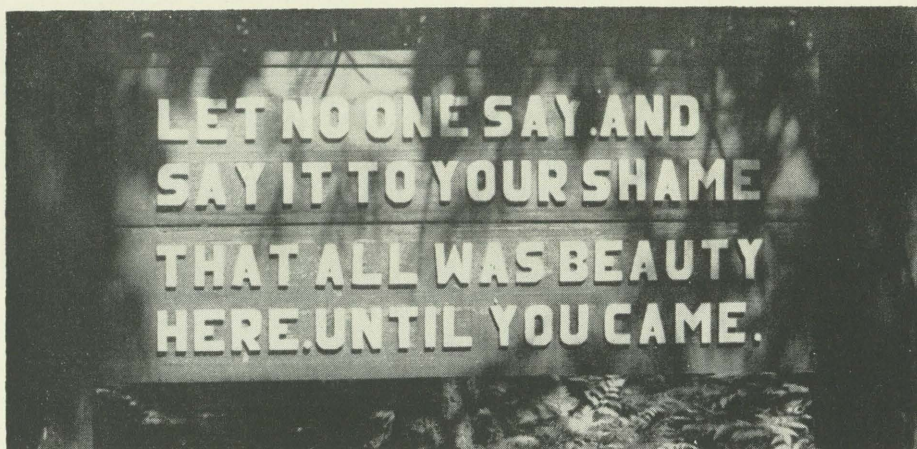
## Vacation Pictures

As we said before, the camera is, or should be, one of the most important parts of your vacation equipment. A trip to your local camera shop will get you information about which film, both black and white and color, will give best results in your particular camera. Today's cameras are so dependable and fool-proof, and modern films have such a wide latitude toward exposure, that taking excellent vacation snapshots is really no problem.

Assuming you have determined by experience or advice the right films for your camera and the basic exposures (shutter speed) for bright sun and shade, there are still two small things you can remember that will give you better pictures.

Vacation pictures are usually full of action, and action is hard to take unless you have had some experience at it. One trick used to take good action pictures, even with simple cameras, is to snap the shutter at the moment the action is slowed or momentarily frozen.

If you throw a ball into the air overhead, the action will be straight



Schilling found this sign amid a stand of virgin white pine in northern Minnesota. He has never forgotten it and says he would like to see this picture pasted in the lid of every tackle box in America.

up and then straight down, but at the top of the ball's rise, there will be a split second when the ball is motionless. Taking a picture of a ball in midflight, that is the time to snap the shutter. All action is, of course, not quite so simple, but this same approach can be used on a surprising number of action shots.

In the accompanying photo, the fish were trying to jump the gate to get into the spawning waters beyond. A slow shutter speed of 1/100 of a second, plus a little planning, gave me a jumping fish picture with one fish frozen in mid-air and

another blurred just enough to emphasize the movement.

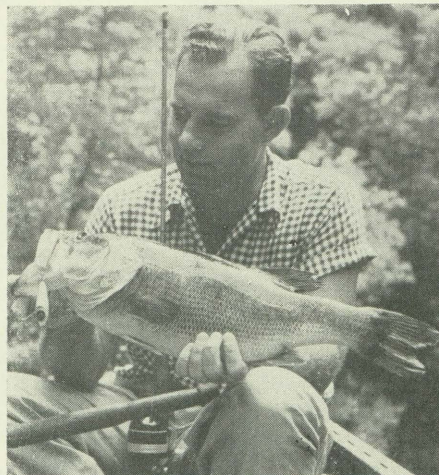
## Careful Focus

The finest cameras and the best films in the world will not produce good, sharp pictures unless the subject is in critical focus when the shutter trips. This is something only the photographer can do. Here is a little, professional trick that most photogs use to help them find that razor sharp line.

It is apparent that some objects offer easier focusing qualities than others. Sharply contrasting colors in a regular pattern offer the maximum in focusing assistance, while softly blended colors on the subject offer the most resistance. Add the problem of inadequate light, and you can see why so many photographers' models wear clothing and accessories containing a high contrast, such as, a checked shirt or hatband.

When you pack for your vacation trip, remember to include a striped sweater, checked shirt, or a bathing suit, fishing hat, or some other piece of clothing with picture taking and focusing affinity.

I have one other vacation suggestion, and that is to TAKE one. I'm off to Nova Scotia to TRY to catch an Atlantic Salmon on a dry fly. Let's all have fun! ●



Jim Reed of Ocala wears a checkered shirt and holds a sharply marked black bass offer a perfect focusing point for the camera.



# muzzle flashes

BY EDMUND McLAURIN

**I**T MAY SEEM rather untimely and incongruous, right in the middle of the summer fishing season, to remind sportsmen that the regular hunting season is only four months away, with the marsh hen and dove seasons even less, but such mention is made in all seriousness. . . .

Personally, are you ready? Is your gun and hunting equipment in tip-top shape, ready to serve you efficiently?

Chances are good that it isn't! A recent survey showed that one out of every three Florida gun owners have weapons that of necessity, or desirably, need repairs, minor or major.

If your gun needs repair work, or if you plan to alter its stock, barrel length, sighting equipment or mechanical functioning, now is the time to have the work done. Waiting until a couple of weeks before hunting season swamps firearms manufacturers and gunsmiths with service jobs.

Henry P. Davis, of Remington Arms Company, points out that even minor repair jobs require time for handling. Incoming guns must be tagged for both owner identification and department routing, and when the ordered work has been done the procedure must be reversed, the gun packed for shipment and the work billed. Some minor repairs take more time to handle from a receiving and record standpoint than the needed gunsmithing itself, Davis points out. For this reason, Remington cooperates closely with gunsmiths, furnishing approved technicians with gun parts and accessories most in demand. Where factory work is not needed, some of these gun-

smiths can do many of the jobs for less than the cost of shipping direct to the factory and subsequent necessary handling.

Undoubtedly, Jesse Harpe, Tampa gunsmith and an approved Remington service agency, speaks for all his contemporaries when he says that the greater majority of Florida shooters wait until almost the last minute before opening of the hunting season to have gun repairs made, and then want jobs done "right away." Some gunsmithing work simply cannot be done "right away," for technical reasons alone. Harpe says that he and other resident gunsmiths would be grateful if Florida shooters try to bring in their guns during the summer months, giving ample time for service and back-ordering of any special equipment or parts.

## Scope Sights

Mounting of scope sights on deer rifles often call for drilling of receivers, installation of suitable bases

and focusing and elimination of parallax (undesirable reticule movement when the shooter's aiming eye is moved across the scope's field of view). There are dozens of different makes and styles of scope mounts, each of which usually requires a special holding base, and so similar are some of the technical listings that it is easy to order the incorrect base, especially if the store clerk accepting the order from a customer fails to get all essential information. For example, an early model Winchester 70 in .375 and .300 Magnum caliber takes a Weaver number 41 rear base and a number 35 front base, whereas the same model rifle in other calibers requires a number 37 rear base and a number 35 front base. Get the wrong combination of bases, and you're in for a lot of grief—plus a period of waiting for an exchange by source of supply, often when your time is short until Opening Day!

Too, addition of a scope to a rifle stocked for low-mounted metallic sights may require raising of the stock's comb, to give all-important support to the shooter's face and steadiness to his aiming eye. Except when a quickly-installed lace-on Red Head or Jostam comb pad can be had, building up a rifle comb, by a matching wood inlay, cannot be done in a hurry.

And unless the new scope sight's



Many otherwise good rifles fail to group their shots consistently at long range because of improper bedding of their actions in their wood stocks. Quite often these sad sacks will give surprising accuracy after being properly re-bedded. But the time to carry out such experiments is during the summer months, not the day before hunting season opens.



owner is a regular user of scope sights and intimately familiar with their adjustments and sighting peculiarities, he is going to need a "get acquainted" period before use of hunting season.

The Florida deer hunter who regularly uses a peep sight equipped rifle should have a peep sight disc that permits instantaneous finding of the peep hole, front sight and target. Recommended is a 3/8 inch diameter disc with a size .125 inch center hole. Lyman, Redfield, Williams and Marble all make such discs. The inside rim of the Williams product is lined with a gold color metal, to give sharp sighting contrast and quick definition to the aiming aperture hole, and is a positive sighting aid under poor light conditions of early morning and late evening. However, extra peep sight discs are not easy to find in the average sporting goods store, or gunsmith's shop — especially in desired overall and inner aperture diameters—so should be ordered well in advance of planned use. It is a good idea to obtain and keep on hand several sight discs with 3/8 and 1/2 inch outer diameters and inner sighting holes of .070, .093 and .125 inch size, and to use them under corresponding light conditions. The snap-shooter, or running game shot, should always use a fairly large inner hole, however, as he needs to quickly find his front sight and target through the aiming aperture.

Where the receiver peep sight is a new installation, a corresponding change of height of the front sight may be necessary. For example, on the highly popular Winchester model 94 .30-30 caliber deer rifle, with a factory ramp front sight, a front sight with a height of about .290 of an inch, used with a Lyman, Williams or Redfield receiver sight, is about right. The Savage model 99, with a dovetail type ramp front sight, takes a front sight of about .350 to .375 of an inch in height, and the Marlin model 39A .22 caliber rifle is another popular model that requires a similar front sight height. Such rifle models as the 760 Remington, 740 Remington, 88 Winchester



Fancying up a favorite gun will not make it shoot any better but it does add greatly to pride of ownership. The work should be done in mid-summer — not attempted, or ordered, a couple of weeks before hunting season.

and 71 Winchester, however, may not require changes of front sights at all. Consult sight guide charts or write sight manufacturers giving the make, model, caliber and current sight combination, for recommended combinations.

Many otherwise good game rifles fail to group their shots consistently because of improper bedding of their actions in their wood stocks. Quite often these sad sacks give surprising accuracy and grouping performances after being re-bedded in their stocks. A skilled gunsmith knows where to locate and relieve points of undesirable contact of action and stock, or when to shim or cushion contact points of accuracy influence. Sometimes merely tightening or loosening fore-end holding screws as little as one-quarter to one-half a turn can make all the difference in the world the way a rifle groups its shots at long range. The time to carry out such experiments is during the summer months, not the day before hunting season opens.

#### Shotgun Sights

The shotgunner who misses be-

cause of errors in aiming eye alignment will benefit from installation of a second, smaller ivory bead sight between gun breach and front sight. Addition of a raised, matted rib, used with or without the double bead sights, frequently is beneficial, too.

Front sight conscious shotgunners can have any of a variety of Bradley bead and Bev-L-Blok sights installed, depending on the model of shotgun owned. The Poly-Choke Company, Hartford, Connecticut, installs them in combination with the Poly-Choke selective choke device and also sells them separately.

Many shotguns do not pattern where they should, shooting high, low or to one side. Bending of barrels to bring shot patterns to center can be done, but it's an un-hurried factory job.

#### Recoil Pads

Addition of a rubber recoil pad to a firearm not only dresses up the rifle or shotgun considerably, but contributes immeasurably to the

(Continued on Page 49)





Each vertical comb of the honeybee is double, composed of two base-to-base layers of wax cells facing in opposite directions with each cell tilted slightly to avoid spilling its stored honey as it is filled and capped.

# THOSE BUSY BEES

By EDMUND McLAURIN

Honey connoisseurs have long taken the busy bee for granted. With third place national rating, Florida's honey production represents a nine million dollar investment.

**E**VIDENTLY, THE receiving teller at the small town Florida bank knew most of his depositors by name. As the long line before his window shortened in single, successive stages, he had a personal greeting for each patron doing business with the bank.

His conversations were necessarily brief, but for one depositor he had more than the customary greeting.

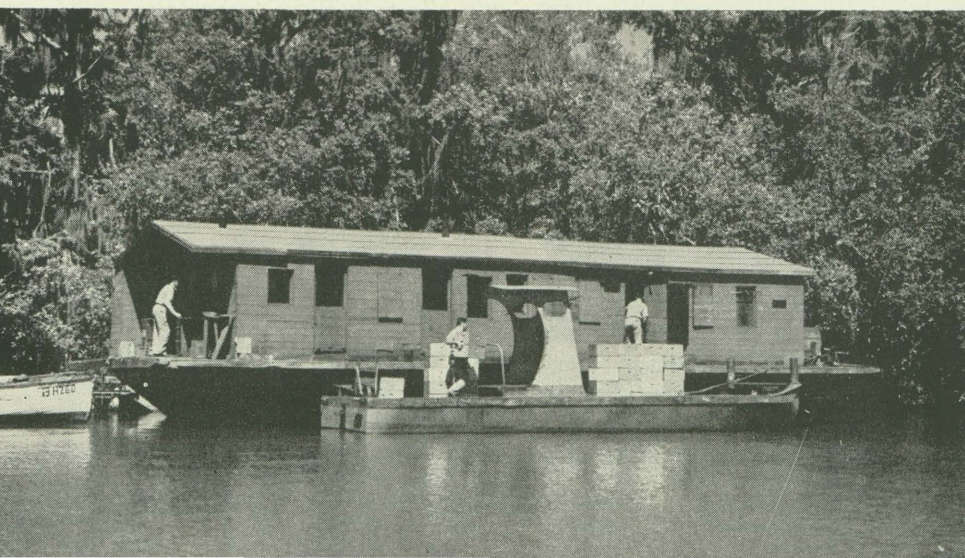
"Good morning, Joe!," he said. "You haven't been to the rod and gun club meeting lately. We've missed you. Anyone been sick in your family?"

"Hello, Fred!," the man addressed as Joe replied. "No sickness in the family, thank goodness . . . I've just been busy as a bee in honeytime the last eight weeks."

The latter statement was descriptive, but not truly accurate. Were Joe—or any of us—really as busy as a bee in honeytime most of us would be dead within eight weeks! In honey-making time, most worker bees are old and worn-out at five and six weeks of age and die off rapidly unless saved by the coinciding winter hibernation period for the entire colony. During the height of the nectar season, it is not unusual for a worker bee to wear out its wings in three short weeks of sunrise to sunset blossom-visiting, and to die a few days later.

According to Roger A. Morse, Entomologist of the State Plant Board, Florida now has more than 238,000 colonies of bees, representing a nine million dollar investment, exclusive of honey houses and associated equipment.

The combined activities of the busy bees placed Florida third in honey production in the nation in 1956, when some 17,360,000 pounds of honey were produced, with a



For some sixty miles along the lower course of Florida's Apalachicola River, banks and backwaters of the stream are heavily wooded with tupelo gum trees, the blossoms of which give sweet nectar for the finest of honey. So inaccessible is much of the region that bee hives and equipment have to be transported by shallow-draft river boats.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE



market value in excess of three million dollars. Simple division of bee colonies into total honey harvested shows that each hive yielded an average of 70 pounds of honey during the year, if one uses the increased figure of 248,000 as a more truly accurate hive count.

In addition, beeswax harvested from honey hives in 1956 brought Florida beekeepers and distributors an extra \$120,000. Commercially, beeswax has four to five times the market value of honey per pound and finds many uses as a basic ingredient for cosmetics, polishes, ointments, paints, church candles, modeling wax and lithographic inks.

Beeswax is a digestion product of worker bees and is used by them for constructing cell walls of the honey comb. It ranges in color from golden yellow to almost black and is insoluble in water although carbon tet and chloroform will dissolve it readily.

Naturally, the quantity of beeswax harvested for the commercial market in a given year coincides with any increase or decrease in the quantity of honey harvested, with the latter, in turn, being affected by unusual weather conditions and abundance of nectar-source plants and crops.

An estimated 80 per cent of the insect pollination of Florida's food crops is performed by bees, including most of our fruit trees, for bees almost unfailingly go to flowers of the same species once they have started gathering nectar.

Growers of early watermelon and cantaloupe crops depend heavily on bees for necessary pollination of marketable melons. When honeybees in their fields are scarce or absent, many of the more successful growers quickly contact an apiarist and have hives moved into the area on a rental basis that averages from \$7.00 to \$8.00 per colony. They consider the hive rentals more than pay for themselves in increased crop yields.

Red clover is another crop that is especially dependent upon insect pollination and honeybees and bumblebees, together, do 97 per cent of the work. Some size of the job can be visualized by considering the fact that a single acre of red clover contains more than 400 million blooms. All have to be visited and pollinated if a maximum potential yield of only 12 bushels of red clover seed is realized!

For human use, honey is a wholesome, high energy, easily assimilated natural food that gives sweetness plus favor. No other sweet has the food value of honey—for ages it has been used as a sweetening agent and a popular substitute for sugar.

Many physicians are prescribing honey-rich diets for arthritis sufferers, and, here in Florida, bee stings have actually been used as a practical therapy for hemophilia, a rare blood disease that causes easy bleeding but little or no natural coagulation at the point of a wound. Stinger venom, from a live honeybee's sting, aids in the cogagulation of human blood, a

*(Continued on Next Page)*



Florida leads the nation in number of varieties of honey produced. Here, J. E. Cunningham, honey products manager of Webb's City, St. Petersburg, one of the state's largest retail outlets for packaged Florida honey, explains the characteristics of Orange Blossom, Tupelo, Gallberry and Palmetto honies to a Florida housewife.



Presence of high water in the swamp homes of the tupelo gum trees renders it necessary to build many of the apiaries on platforms sixteen feet high and often 500 feet long.





Florida produced 17,360,000 pounds of honey in 1956, to rank third in national honey production. Its busy bees contributed in excess of three million dollars to the state's economy, from marketed honey, plus an extra \$120,000 for commercially used beeswax.

*(Continued from Preceding Page)*

Clearwater physician has proven, and the unusual treatment may save a 14-year-old boy's life.

Only recently, New York State's Agricultural Department found that a tablespoon or two of pure honey will sober up a drunken person in short order. The sugars in the honey cause a quick chemical breakdown of the alcohol in the system and nullifies its effect, researchers learned. Within a matter of minutes, an inebriated person is restored to normalcy, without shock, it was found.

Because pure honey will not harbor bacteria, it will keep indefinitely if stored in a warm, dry place and kept lightly covered as protection against insects and added moisture. Properly packed and stored, honey will still be delicious when a year or two old. One Florida apiarist sweetens his breakfast stack of buckwheat cakes with honey he harvested and stored 19 years ago!

Florida leads the nation in number of varieties of honey produced. J. E. Cunningham, manager of the honey-products department of Webb's City, St. Petersburg, one of the state's largest retail outlets for packaged Florida honey, says that public preference is for Orange Blossom honey, followed by Tupelo, Gallberry and Palmetto honies, in that order. One reason for the high popularity rating of the Orange Blossom variety, ahead of the finer quality Tupelo, is its name, Cunningham believes. Many visitors to Florida purchase and ship the blend back home as being most typical of Florida and its citrus. Besides countless thousands of small units, Webb's annually retails a minimum of one thousand dozen 5-pound cans of Orange Blossom honey, shipping the big cans to all states and many foreign countries.

In addition to providing us with delectable honey in a choice of select varieties, and contributing to our economy, honeybees have also been responsible for the creation of many colorful, descriptive phrases in our language. Such expressions as "beehive of industry" (intense activity by a number of workers), "bee line" (shortest path or course to a given point) "bee in your bonnet" (to be informed), "sweet as honey" (comparative description—usually in describing one's girl friend) and "as smooth as Hymettan honey" (like the delightfully smooth and clear Hymettan honey) all derived from man's familiarity with honeybees and their stored nectars.

Biblical and literary references to bees and honey are many. The Bible mentions that John the Baptist subsisted on wild locust and honey when he retired into the desert to meditate in his grief over the deaths of his aged parents, and Samson got himself into serious trouble when he made a riddle about honey.

Aristotle, Virgil and other ancient writers wrote of beekeeping, and history records that Glaucus, young son of Minos of Crete, suffocated or drowned by falling into a vat of honey.

But the honeybee has been earlier history! Carved reliefs in the Temple of the Sun, built by the Egyptians about 2500 B.C., have a beekeeping theme, indicating that beekeeping was a practiced culture.... And Stone Age man evidently had a sweet tooth for honey, too: A rock painting in a cave in Valencia, Spain, depicts an individual of the Stone Age gathering honey from a tree hive, while at the same time fighting off angry bees swarming about his head.

Leading entomologists say that only four species of honeybees (genus *Apis*) are found in the world today, and only one species in the United States, but these represent a number of varieties or races, as different in color, disposition and habitat as the races and nationalities of the human race itself.

First settlers coming to America did not find any native bees, but by 1638 the little honey-makers were well established in this country. First bee introductions were black or German bees, but they proved unfriendly and hard to manage. More successful were importations of Italian bees, dark and golden in color and the most industrious and gentlest of the honey-gathering varieties. Black bees still exist in the remaining large cypress timber tracts of the Everglades, the Okefenokee swamp and the heavily timbered sections of the western part of the State, but the Italian and Caucasian varieties now represent more than 95 per cent of Florida's current bee population.

The old saying that in a home a woman's work is never done finds a counterpart among the 30,000 to 60,000, or more, female workers in an average hive. While anywhere from 100 to 200 drones, or male bees, loiter around the hive, eat sumptuously and possibly dream of a queen bee to pursue in nuptial flight, the female bees feed the larvae, clean, guard and ventilate



the hive, gather and store pollen and nectar and water and attend the reigning queen. But when they get around to it at the end of the honey flow, the female workers usually drive many of the lazy drones from the hive unless the colony is weak and queenless. In such cases the no-goods may be provided with additional food and lodging throughout a winter.

But let John D. Haynie, Extension Apiculturist, and Milledge Murphey, Jr., Assistant Professor of Entomology, Agricultural Extension Service, Gainesville, tell the full story:

"Bees are gregarious insects and a colony is one of the most highly developed social organizations in the animal-insect world, despite the fact that some hives may house as many as 80,000 to 90,000 bees.

"A hive is composed of three different types of individuals—the queen, her workers and drones. Each type is different in size and performs its own particular function.

"The queen bee, mother of the colony, has a larger, longer body than the worker and drone bees, with wings that cover approximately half her body. She leads a queenly life, being fed from larva stage to her death largely on royal jelly—pre-digested food produced in glands in the heads of worker bees.

"The queen, beginning from a fertilized egg, develops in a large cell resembling a peanut. This cell is especially constructed to open downward, rather than to the side of the wax comb, as do the cells of workers and drones. Feeding of a larva from fertilized egg largely on royal jelly produces a queen.

"Within six to eight days after emerging, the queen mates with a drone bee in mid-air. From two to five days after mating the queen starts laying eggs and never mates again. Often she lays as many as 3,000 eggs in a single 24-hour period.

"Normally there is only one queen to a hive, and the existence of the colony depends on her ability to lay eggs. Bees are dying every day and it is important that more be produced.

"Egg laying is the queen's sole duty; she cannot feed herself or gather honey or pollen, and if let alone would soon die. During her life, the queen is fed, cleaned and cared for by worker bees.

"Under natural conditions, when a hive queen begins to fail, her place is taken by one of the virgin queens reared for that purpose.

"Although a mated queen bee may live as long as six years, it is good beekeeping practice to replace the hive queen every year.

"Female worker bees that will never mate represent the largest group within the colony and a good hive should have at least 30,000 such workers. As their name implies, they do all the work of the colony except fertilized egg laying. They feed the larvae, clean, guard and ventilate the hive and gather pollen, nectar,



At a Bee Ridge, Florida, apiary workers rack both foundation and honey-filled comb for convenient, temporary storage. Providing worker bees with recovered, empty foundation comb enables them to devote more time to nectar-gathering, less to hive construction.

water and propolis. Hive workers convert gathered ingredients into honey.

"The younger workers act as nurse bees, first feeding the hive's larvae and then successively caring for the queen or cleaning cells, serving as hive guards and eventually commencing to gather nectar and pollen. Stiff bristles on their legs serve as pollen carrying baskets as the field workers also gather nectar with their tongues.

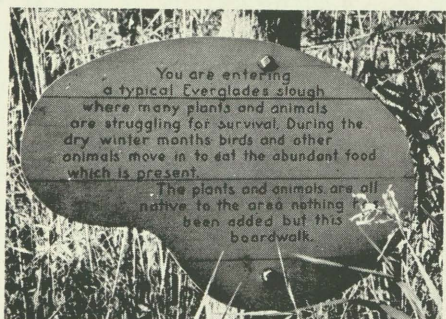
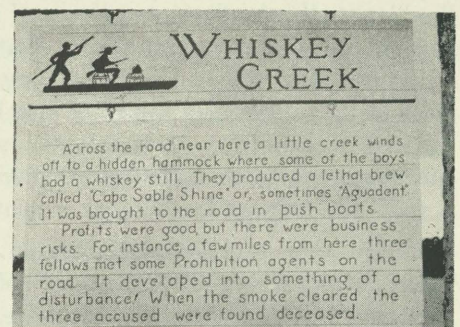
"The average life of a worker bee is about six weeks during the main honey flow. Worker bees literally work themselves to death, dying when their wings wear out. However, worker bees produced in the late Fall normally live until the following Spring.

Drone or stingless male bees develop from unfertilized eggs, and are large and stubby, with eyes that practically cover their heads. The drone's sole duty is to mate with a queen, after which he dies. A normal colony contains from 100 to 200 drones—many times the number needed."

The familiar yellow and black, big bumblebees that frequent our flower gardens store nectar, too, but quantity and quality are both below that of the smaller honeybees. They prefer to nest in a hole in the ground, lining it with bits of straw or dry plants. Their colonies are small, annual communities containing only a few hundred workers compared to the many thousands of a honeybee hive and, unlike the honeybees, the big bumbles store only enough food to tide the colony over a few days of bad weather. Instead of swarming to a new home, as do the honeybees, the colonies break up. Once the new queens have mated, the old queen, males and workers die. The young, mated queens go their individual ways and hibernate through the Winter. In Spring, these new queens create new colonies. Until workers hatch from her layed eggs and

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# PAHAYOKEE

## Florida's River of Grass

**T**HE EVERGLADES—vast, remote, mysterious. A region rich in history and tradition over which have passed eras of peace and plenty as well as periods of violence and destruction.

For something like four hundred years after the first white-skinned adventurers stared out over the endless, shimmering expanse of water, sawgrass, and tree grown islands, the Everglades lay in primal somnolence.

But inevitably, with the settlement of the state, the gnawing began. Hand in hand with civilization there came highways, canals, dikes, and ditches, so changing portions of the face of the 'glades that in places their essential character is

lost in the obscurity of the commonplace. Flat, far stretching fields of sugar cane, corn, tomatoes, and other agricultural crops resemble similar croplands in many other parts of the world.

But there are reaches of the Everglades where man has scarcely disrupted the age-old life rhythm of Florida's unique "River of Grass."

In the Everglades National Park, the tourist is afforded a look at the 'glades and its teeming wildlife much as it was when the early Timucuan and the later Calusa, Mayaimi, and St. Lucie Indians counted the land of the sawgrass as their domain.

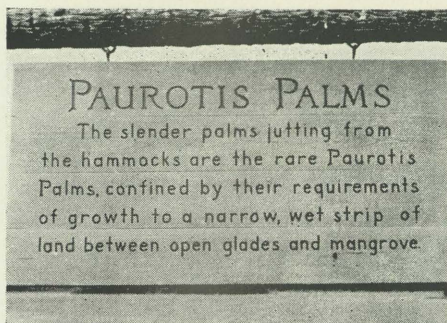
The influences of the tropics are strong in Everglades National Park, making it one of the most unusual wilderness areas in the United States. The "look of the country" is one of vastness—great, timeless stretches of grasslands which are the true Everglades. "Pahayokee," the Indians called it, meaning "grassy waters" or marshes. Clusters of trees, called hammocks, make islands in the open Everglades. The almost impenetrable mangrove for-

Photos by B. Hansen

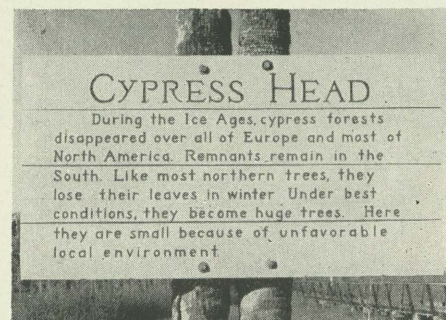


The maze of waterways covering the Park makes it necessary for most of the patrol work to be conducted by boat.





**For four hundred years after their discovery,  
the Everglades were regarded more as  
fantasy than simple geographical fact.**



ests, following the shorelines or growing upon keys in open water, are so dense that sunlight scarcely reaches the lower limbs or strange, arching roots of the trees. The park, in effect is a mosaic of the many interesting features that make up this unique section of our country.

Located at the southern tip of the Florida peninsula, the park, which was established in 1947, contains approximately 1,500,000 acres of land and water area characteristic of the great Everglades region. Once, it was all at the bottom of a shallow sea. Today, the land is flat, scarcely above present-day sea level, but dips imperceptibly to the shallow waters of the Florida Bay section of the park at the south and the Gulf of Mexico on the west. Warmed by the sun and nourished by the waters, the area is biologically fertile, supporting many interrelated forms of plant and animal life under natural conditions.

There are two distinct seasons in the Everglades section; the winter season beginning in early December and running through April and the summer season running from about

the first of May through November.

The winter season is normally the most pleasant time of the year for sight-seeing in the park. It is the season of clear weather with very little rainfall. Frequently there may be periods of a month or more without rain. Many a visitor has commented that the temperature is about like June up north. Cold snaps, usually of short duration are not unknown and they are usually accompanied by strong, northern winds and, occasionally, with a touch of frost.

It is during this dry season of the year that wildlife tends to concentrate about the sloughs, lakes, and ponds therefore offering an excellent

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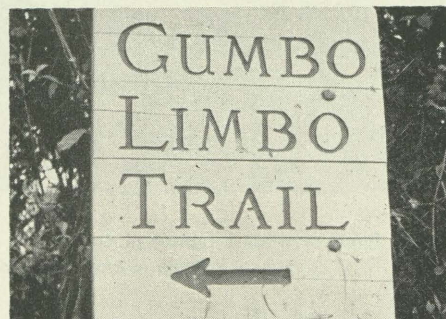
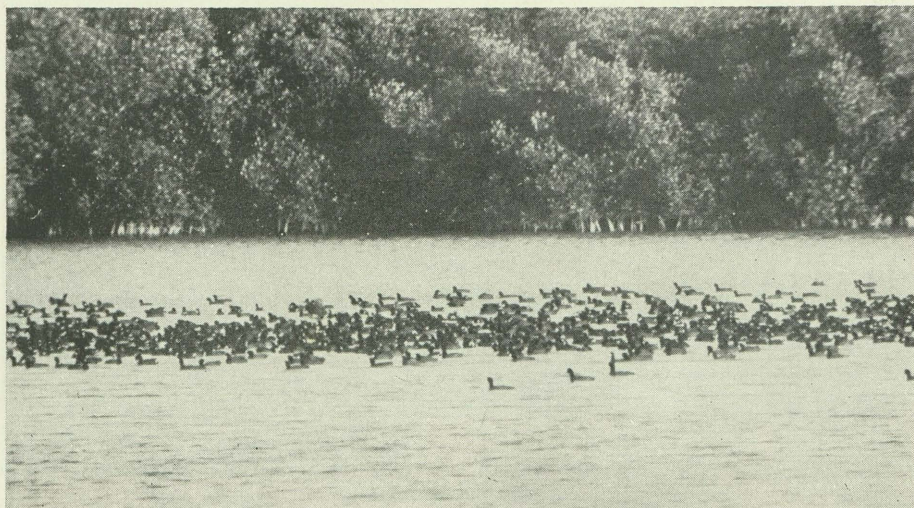


Photo by M. Naggiar

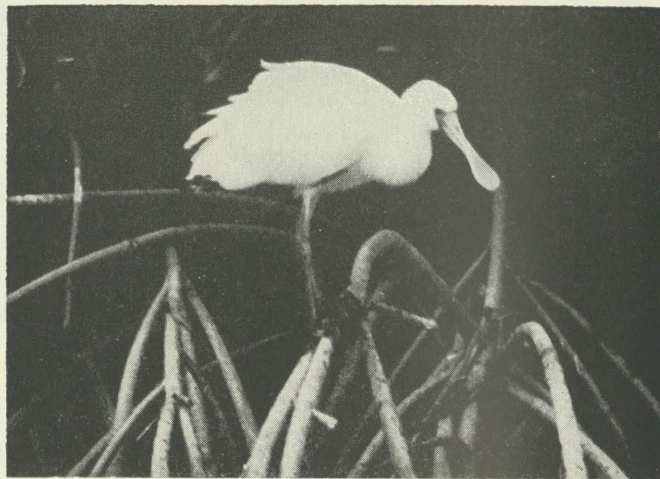


Spectacular concentrations of coots as well as of other migratory waterfowl are a common sight during the winter months.





**ANHINGA**  
(WATER TURKEY)



**ROSEATE**  
**SPOONBILL**



**MAN-'O-WAR-BIRD**

Photos by M. Naggiar

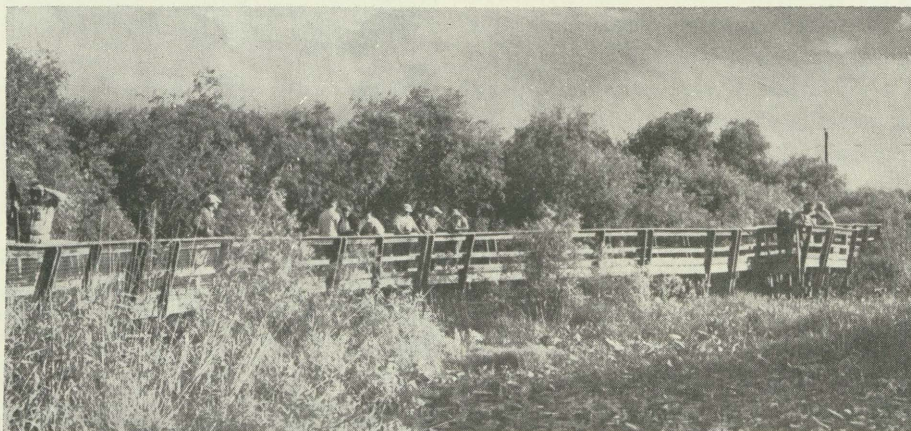


Photo by B. Hansen

Many forms of wildlife typical of the 'glades may be observed at first hand from the popular Anhinga Trail, a boardwalk through the swamp.



Photo by M. Naggiar

The "look of the country" is one of vastness — great, timeless stretches of grasslands which are the true Everglades.

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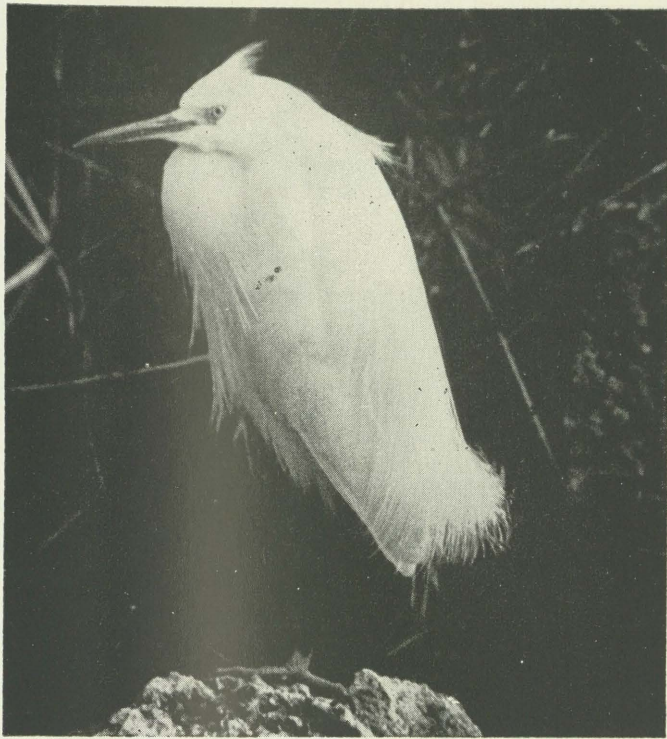
opportunity for observation and photography. The nesting activities of many of the large, spectacular wading birds—egrets, ibis, herons, and roseate spoonbills—start during midwinter. The rookeries present a spectacular sight at this season of the year. It is also during the winter season that waterfowl and other migratory birds from the north are concentrated in the park.

Most of the trees, shrubs, and other plants stay green all winter, although the grasses and sedges of the 'glades take on brownish hues.

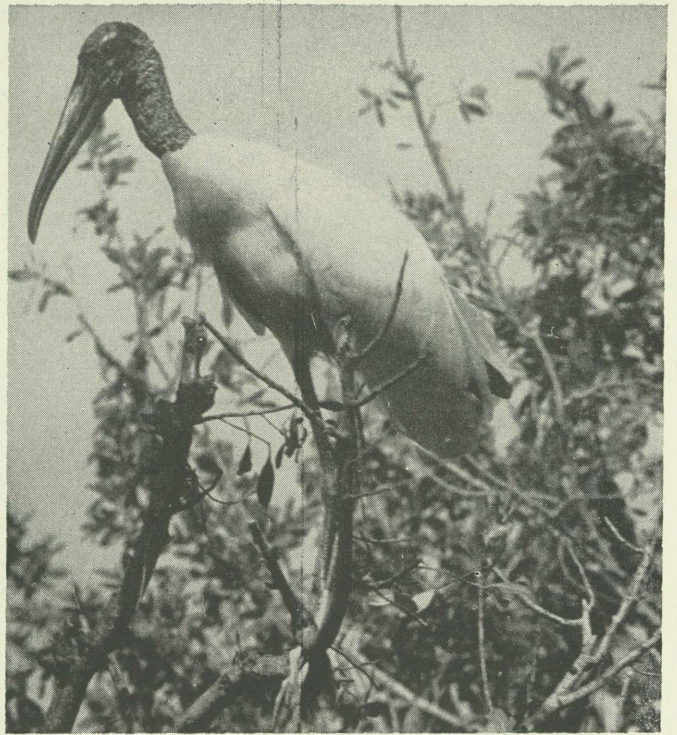
Fishing is good, generally speaking, but tends to be variable during the winter. Waters may at times become quite rough at this time of year.

Summer is the rainy season in the park. This period is characterized by torrential, local downpours, sometimes accompanied by lightning, although all-day rains are unusual. Temperatures rise to a peak in August, with increased humidity. The prevailing breezes which make the coastal areas pleasant are not always noticeable in the interior of the park. Insects are bothersome during this time of the year.





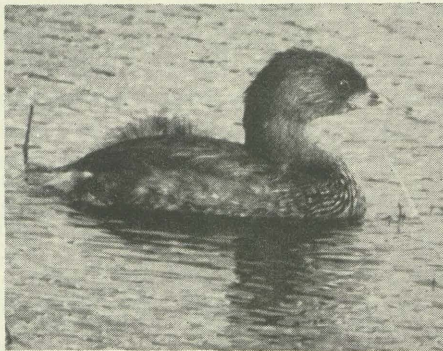
**SNOWY EGRET**



**WOOD IBIS**

Wildlife is distributed over wide areas in the summer and is not so easily seen. A few birds come up from the tropics to nest at this season, notably the swallow-tailed kite, white-crowned pigeon, and gray kingbird. Vegetation is lush and green because, even here, summer is the main growing season.

Fishing is at its best during this time of the year and park waters are usually calmer than during the winter.



**PIED-BILLED GREBE**

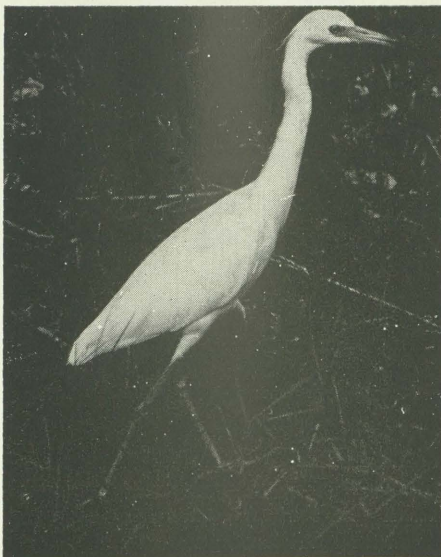
Photos by M. Nagliar

Replacing the old road, a new, first quality highway now traverses the park from the entrance checking station on the east side to Flamingo at the south shore of the mainland—a distance of 34 miles. To reach the entrance, turn west from U.S.1 on State Route 27 at Florida City where park directional signs are located. The distance from this intersection is 9 miles.

Coming from the west, turn south

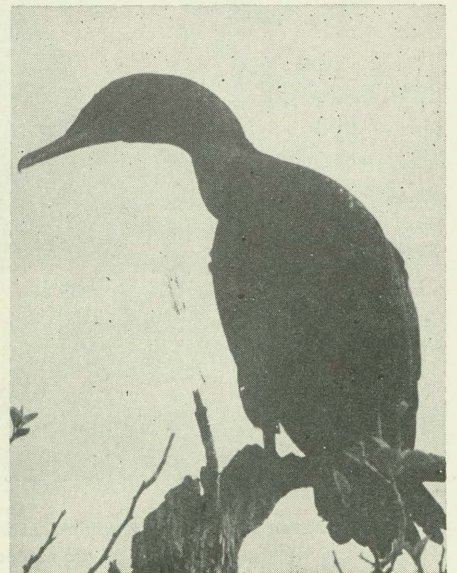
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**LITTLE BLUE HERON**



**AIR PLANT**

**CORMORANT**





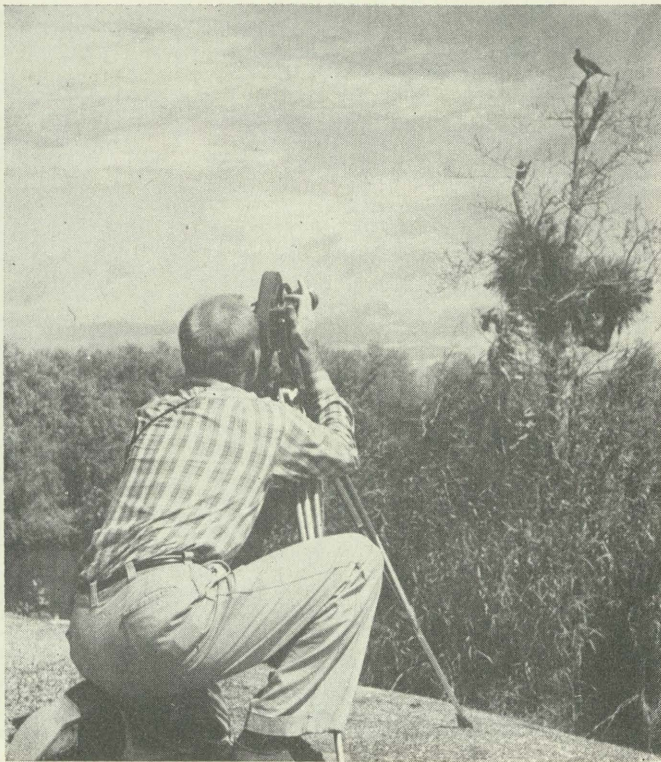


Photo by M. Naggiar

During the winter season, birds of many kinds gather close to the main roads offering outstanding opportunities for the wildlife photographer.

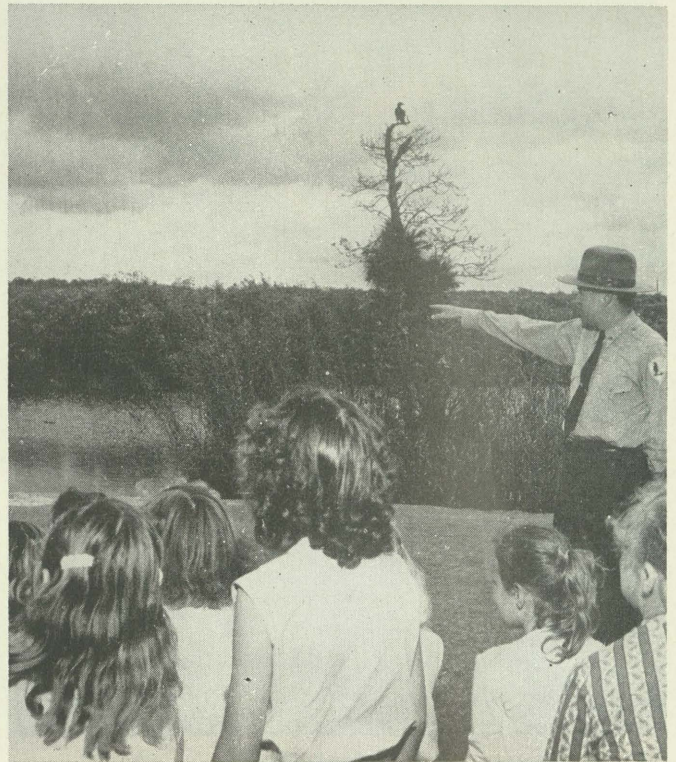


Photo by B. Hansen

Park ranger-naturalists conduct regularly scheduled lectures and nature walks, often illustrated by the antics of the wildlife subjects under discussion.

from U.S. 41 on Krome Road (State Route 27) to Homestead and Florida City.

At Flamingo there are available camping and picknicking facilities,

service station, restaurant, and a large boat marina. At the present time there is no motel or other lodging available for overnight guests.

Some visitors enter the park from

the northwest, near Everglades City. No roads penetrate the park in this section although guided boat tours are offered. ●



Photo by W. Hughes

Otter find a haven in the watery wilderness of the Everglades. Although quite common, they are not too often seen.



Photo by B. Hansen

Raccoons have learned that Park visitors are good for a free lunch practically anytime.



# The Large Economy Size

By MARGO HOSFORD

**"I'M TELLING YOU** they are the biggest and the bluest and the best-tasting crabs I ever saw, and I've seen plenty. And what gets me is, they are miles from salt water."

The guy was so excited he was getting almost belligerent about it. "Why," he added, "people back home would name me a candidate for the Liars' Club if I tried to tell them how big they are."

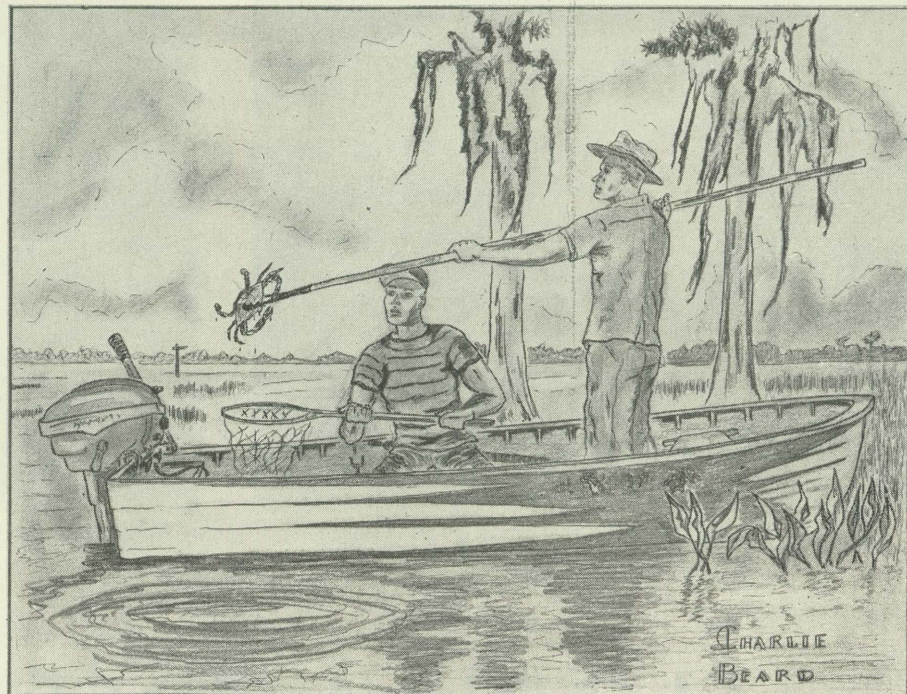
This was a transplanted New York State man, who had been on his first crabbing trip to Salt Springs. He had come home full of enthusiasm and with a tubful of crabs.

But he was not exaggerating about the size of these crabs. They are big. An eighteen-inch clawspread is not unusual, and I have one friend who claims he has caught them with a twenty-four-inch spread, but he is a fisherman, so I don't know just how he measures.

I do know this: By the time you have eaten the luscious white meat of a few of them, and the nut-sweet dark meat of some of those thick claws, you are not as hungry as you thought you were.

There are a lot of other transplanted people in the state who have not had the experience of catching and eating these delicious crabs, and if you are one of them, you have been missing one of Florida's most rewarding sports.

Of course Central Florida is not the only place in the state to find them, and Salt Springs is not the only good place in Central Florida, but it is one of the best. But then so is the Silver Glen Run good, and all



the other runs that feed into the St. Johns River, as well as the river itself.

May, June and July are the best months for crabbing, though you can find them both earlier and later in the season, but not in such numbers.

There are as many methods of catching them as there are places, and of course as many ways to prepare them for eating.

Some people become so skillful at handling a net, they can snare them with that alone, dipping the swimming crab from the running water. Others like to use a trap, which is the usual way commercial fishermen catch them.

But there are other ways that are more fun, and the equipment is simple: A boat, a long-handled crab net, a "crab claw," or a hand-line, and bait. The bait can be tough raw meat, or chicken skin, or the smelly head of a dead fish. And the bait can be used over and over again.

The crab claw is a long-handled metal contrivance with a claw-like arrangement on the end, and a trigger that causes it to close around the body when it touches the crab. This is used in the clear waters of the springs, where you can see your victim. When you spot one, you very carefully lower the instrument until

it reaches the crab, the trigger clicks, and there you are!

These claws, as well as the nets can be rented at some of the fish camps near the crabbing areas.

Most men consider this the most sporting way of getting them, especially at night, using a light of course. Women seem to prefer the handline, or even the rod and reel, which is the method we used recently in the St. Johns near Deland.

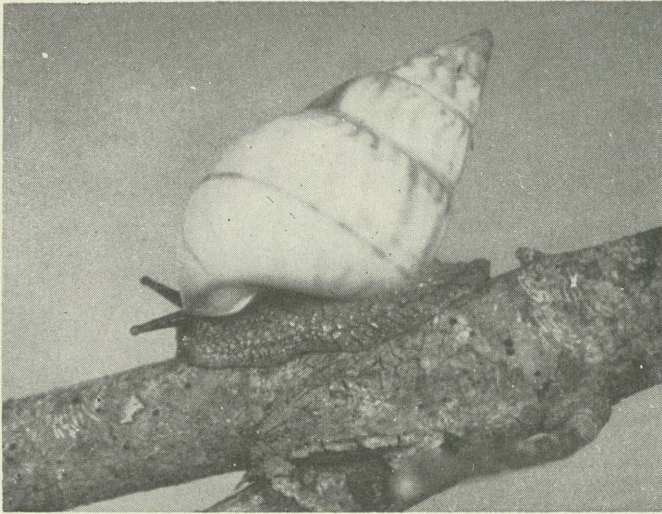
Here we anchored the boat offshore, near some lily pads, and cast out into the channel. The bait, either tied or hooked on the line, was reeled in slowly for three or four casts, until a "trail" had been established, then nearly every cast brought in a fine big crab.

With this method, as well as with the hand-line, once you feel a tug, the retrieve should be slow and steady. If the crab turns loose, you stop and give it time to take hold again.

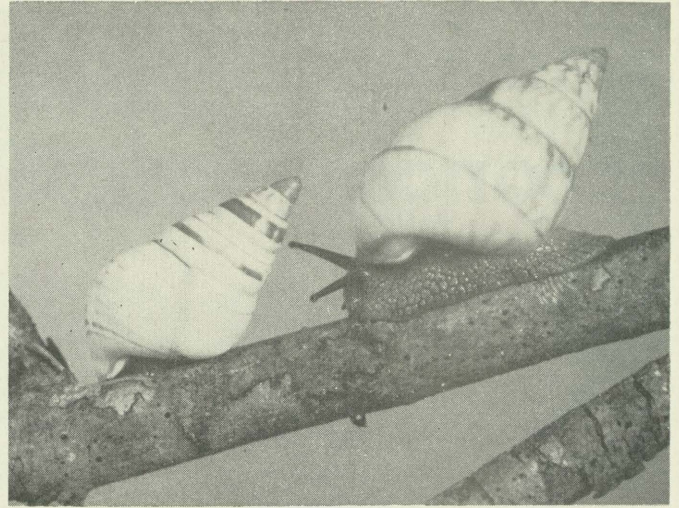
When you have your catch near enough, it must be very carefully netted (if it sees you first it will drop off). Have a large tub or bucket handy, or drop the crab into the bait well. And this is the time to be cautious, because if one of those huge blue claws ever clamps down on

(Continued on Page 44)





"Think I'll see what's going on down at the other joints."



"Wonder who that is? The carapace is familiar but the name I can't recall."



# FLORIDA TREE SNAIL

By MARY LOU NORWOOD

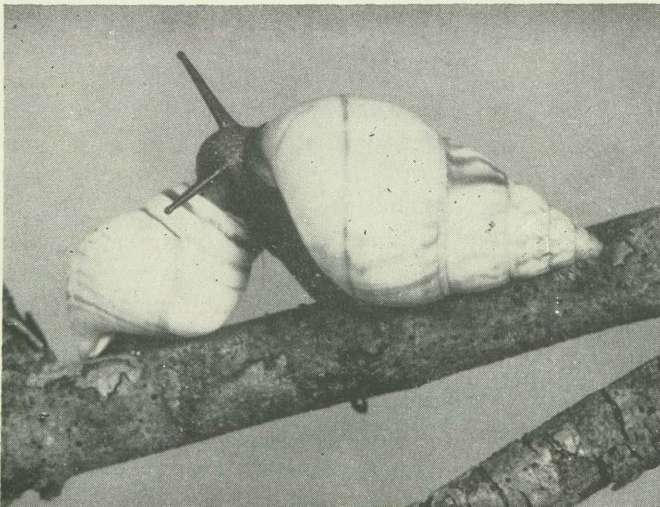
Photos by Wallace Hughes

Patient observation and the camera  
often reveal many wonders of  
Mother Nature's more minute offspring.

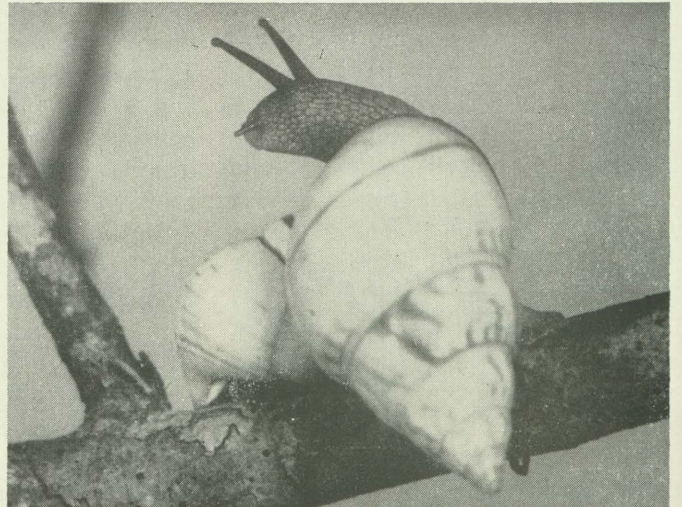
**T**HE FLORIDA TREE SNAIL (*Liguus*) is about as colorful a little critter as you'll ever meet. There are over 50 color variations of the shells or carapaces. These range from sharply contrasting bold spiral patterns to very delicate pastel ones. Of the two used in this series of pictures, the active one is bright yellow with a pink tip and flares of brown. The inactive one has a white background with thin spiral lines of green, tan, yellow, pink, and blue.

*Liguus* is confined to the hardwood hammocks of mahogany, gumbo limbo, fiddlewood, mastic, etc., of

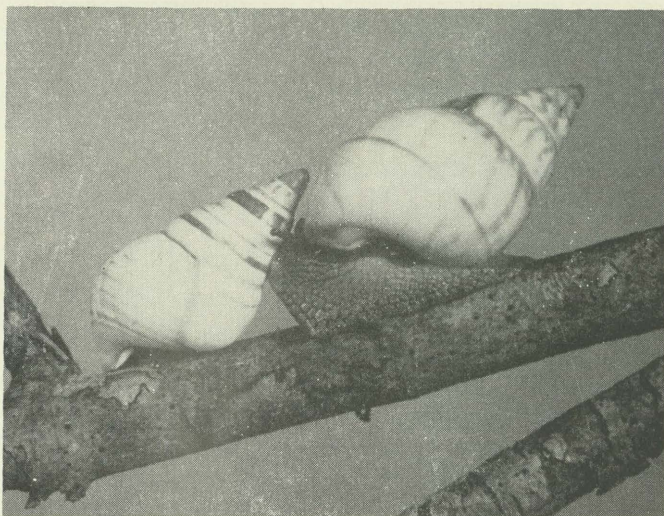
"Okay, Bub, you asked for it. I'll just go over if I can't go around."



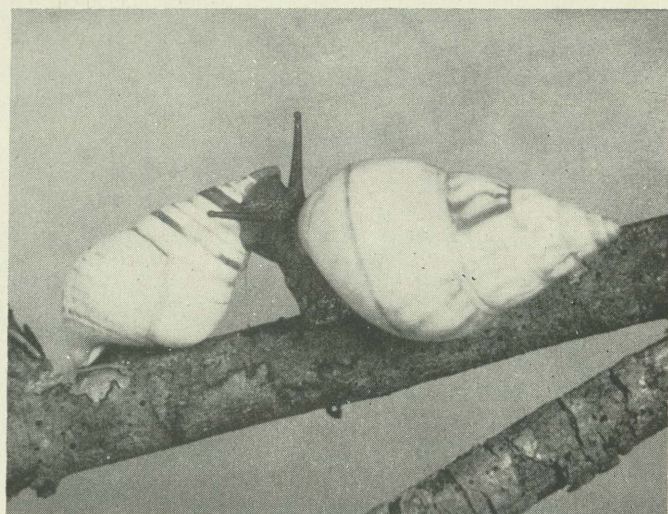
"Hmmm! Things look pretty dull down there anyway."







"OUCH! How do you like that? No tail light, no signal, no nothing."



"Well, go on. Move, dern you. You're holding up traffic."

extreme south Florida. Its favorite food trees are Jamaican dogwood and wild tamarind from which it scrapes its meal of mould and algae. A tree snail grazing over a dead leaf when the night is still produces a rasping noise that can be heard 8 or 10 feet away.

The warm wet months from May through July is the growing season for *Liguus*. For young snails the growth rate is greater, slowing down gradually with age. Towards the end of the summer growth stops until the next season. This produces a series of growth rings which makes judging a snail's age possible by counting the rings. It appears that some individuals reach the age of 8 or 9 years.

At the end of the growing season the snails mate. Like so many other species of snails, *Liguus* is hermaphroditic, each snail having the organs of both sexes. The snails pair off and fertilize one another in turn.

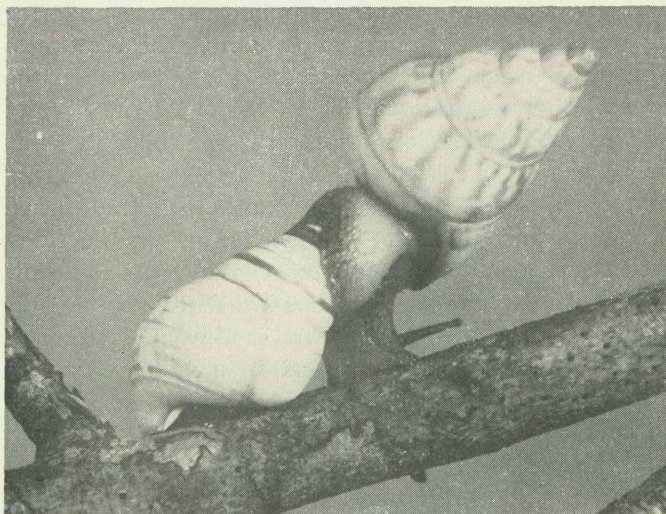
The period of time before the eggs are ready to be laid varies with weather conditions in much the same way as does the ripening time of fruit. Egg laying starts the night after the first hard rain that comes along about two months after fertilization—usually September.

Down from their trees come the snails to hollow out globular shaped nests in the drenched leafmold. Laboriously and slowly they burrow into the wet loam until only a quarter of the carapace shows above the fallen leaves. It takes the little fellow about 24 hours to make its nest. Nest ready, actual egg laying begins. It is another long process and the small pea-sized eggs drop into the nest at the rate of about 10 a day. An average of 24 eggs are laid by each snail though the number may vary from 15 to 50.

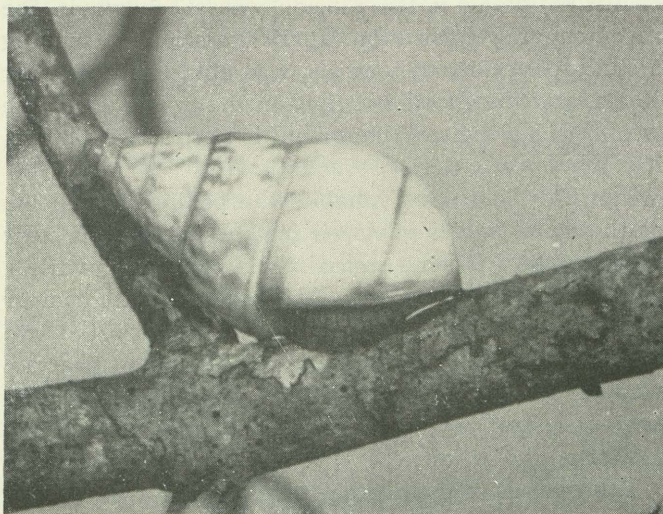
Now the dry months are approaching. Tree snails,

*(Continued on Page 49)*

"Might as well turn around . . . ."



. . . . and spend a nice quiet evening at home."







# THE FLORIDA WEASEL

By WILFRED T. NEILL

**F**LORIDA IS THE HOME of numerous mammals: black bear, racoon, panther, wildcat, mink, otter, skunk and many more. Some of these, like the 'coon, are widespread and abundant. Others, like the Florida panther, are rarely seen, even by outdoorsmen who spend much time in the woods. Among the least known of our mammals is the Florida weasel, shown in the accompanying illustration. In 1950 a scientist, making a study of American weasels, was able to locate only 15 skins of the Florida variety in the museums of the world. Nevertheless, the animal is not rare in nature; it is just hard to find.

The Florida weasel inhabits the peninsular portion of the state, and is replaced farther north by a near relative, the Alabama weasel. The peninsular variety is said to be larger than the Alabama one, with coarser fur and a broader, heavier head. Otherwise the two are quite similar. As a matter of fact, it is uncertain whether the supposed differences are constant; no one has ever seen enough Florida weasels to settle the matter.

The weasels of the northern United States are pesky

beasts, often raiding henhouses and so bringing the whole weasel tribe into ill repute. However, the Florida variety is well behaved, usually keeping to itself and feeding mostly upon rodents. It is, in fact, a very attractive little animal. It is long and slender, about the size of a grey squirrel. Its fur, although short, is both sleek and soft, there being a dense underfur as well as long, glistening outer hairs. The texture of the fur is much like that of the mink, to which the weasel is closely related.

The back of the Florida weasel is light brown or tan, while the belly is rich yellow or even orange, changing to snow white around the muzzle, chin and throat. The yellow of the belly extends far up on the sides, and sometimes there are a few isolated spots of yellow on the back. The snout is usually white-spotted; the feet are white; the tip of the tail is always black.

The Florida weasel is found in a wide variety of country. It has been seen in pine flatwoods, cypress swamp, brushy fields, the Big Scrub of Marion County, and the stands of turkey-oak and longleaf pine. In the drier situations it often inhabits the tunnels of the



## Among the least known of

### Florida's mammals is the weasel.

Contrary to general belief he is not  
rare in nature; just hard to find.

pocket-gopher, a burrowing rodent. Florida weasels probably spend most of their time below ground, pursuing rats, mice and pocket-gophers in their own burrows. The slim build of the weasel enables it to follow small tunnels with ease. Long, sensitive whiskers like those of a cat adorn the weasel's muzzle, helping the animal to feel its way along the dark tunnels; and similar bristles also sprout from the weasel's elbows. The subterranean habits of this animal explain why it is not often encountered in the wild.

Although most Florida weasels are shy and retiring, occasional ones seem to become friendly with man, for unknown reasons. Ross Allen, well-known naturalist of Silver Springs, Florida, told me of an experience he had with a weasel. Ross was mounting a deer head in an outdoor workshop, when he caught a glimpse of something moving among boxes on the ground. He tossed a piece of meat to the floor, and to his surprise a weasel dashed out and seized the food. He threw it another piece of meat, and then pounced on the animal as it made a grab for the second tidbit. On another occasion, a very sick-looking weasel came up from the cypress swamp near Ross' exhibit. It wandered around in plain view, and Ross caught it. It had been bitten by a poisonous snake, probably a cottonmouth moccasin; and it lived for only a few hours.

A hunter in Marion County once noticed a weasel following him about in the woods. The man caught the animal, which was a young one. Apparently it had wandered away from its nest and become lost. Dr. Joseph C. Moore, formerly of the Everglades National Park, had a pet weasel which was caught in the drug garden at the University of Florida. It had been living in a pocket-gopher burrow, and was extricated by means of a fishhook lashed to the tip of a bamboo pole. Florida weasels have several times been found around warehouses, packing houses and barns, where rodents are common. I've been told that rats and mice soon disappear when a weasel takes up residence near a barn.

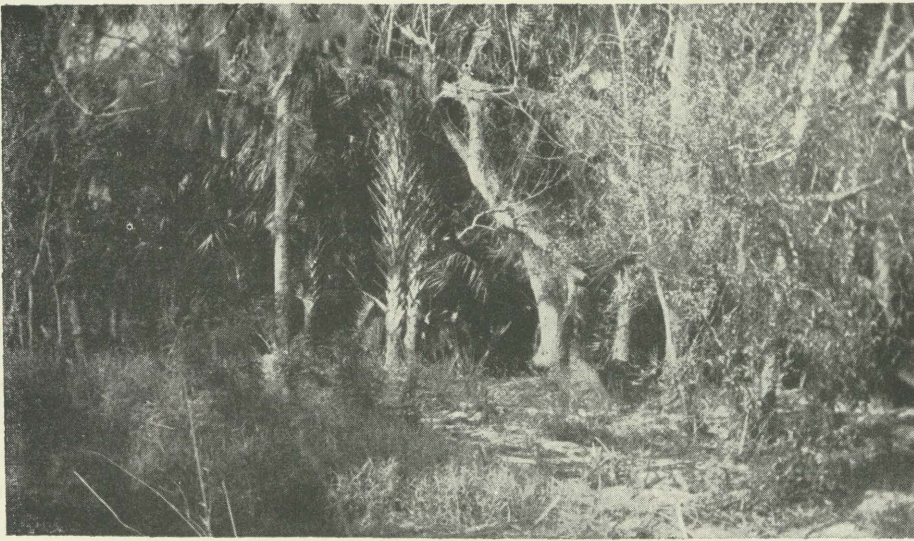
Very little is known about the life history of the

Florida weasel. The female constructs a den in a tree hole, hollow log, or ground burrow. Apparently the young are born around October or November, and three seems to be the usual number of babies, judging from the few broods that have been found. Growth is rapid, the full adult size being reached in about four months. For some reason, our weasels are especially active in February, at least in the central part of the state. During this month I often see one of the little animals scampering across the highway, or else lying dead on the road, the victim of a passing auto. The gait of the weasel is characteristic. The animal progresses by a series of hops, and its long body "humps up" each time the hind feet are advanced. From a distance the weasel looks as though it were traveling in caterpillar fashion. It is very fast, nevertheless, and can run down a big rat in short order. Probably wood rats, cotton rats and pocket-gophers are the chief prey of the Florida weasel in the wild, although any kind of rodent would be welcomed. We do not know how many rodents are killed by one weasel, but the quantity must be prodigious; for a captive weasel ate a whole rat every day, usually devouring the animal entirely and leaving no scraps. The prey is killed very quickly, and the brain is the first part eaten. When a weasel happens on a whole nest of rats, he is apt to kill every one, eating only the brains. This habit leads some people to call the weasel "bloodthirsty." Actually, the little carnivore is just behaving instinctively, reacting automatically, and so playing his role in Nature's scheme. Of course, when a weasel gets into a henhouse, he'll do plenty of damage; but this seldom happens in Florida.

I once kept an adult Florida weasel in captivity. It had one bad habit: like many other animals, when disturbed it would give off an odor. This odor, produced by scent glands, was not sharp and offensive like that of a skunk; rather, it was fairly mild and musky. In a few weeks the weasel grew tame and gave up the annoying habit. More than anything the animal reminded me of a kitten, being playful and remarkably dainty. It was forever washing itself, from nose to tip of tail. Like a cat, it lapped water delicately. Only when a big rat was introduced would the weasel live up to its reputation for ferocity. Then the little carnivore would bristle up and glare intently at the rodent, at the same time gathering for a spring. The weasel would strike like a snake, bowling the rat over. The first lunge might strike the prey anywhere, but almost instantly the weasel would transfer its bite to the back of the rat's head, biting into the brain or spinal cord and killing the rodent immediately. A big, ugly sewer rat held no terrors for the valiant weasel, which would tackle just about anything. On some occasions the weasel not only struck at the rat but also coiled about it in snake-like fashion. The rodent's movements were thus hindered while the weasel obtained its death-grip.

(Continued on Page 42)





The domain of the Cabbage Palm, beautiful and rugged.

# HEART O' FLORIDA

By SALLYDALE WIMBROW

**The author went a-hunting,  
but not for geese or bear.  
She played the vegetarian,  
and found food everywhere.**

**T**OUGH THE CHANCES OF IT are slim, there's still a lot of truth in the saying, "No one need starve in Florida." From an oyster or shrimp cocktail right down the menu to fresh fruit dessert, full course meals are growing all around us. And you don't have to take chances like Peter Rabbit did to have your vegetables either. One of the tastiest treats on earth lies outside of Mr. MacGregor's reach in the hearts of Palm Trees, far from "No Trespassing" signs.

This heart is colloquially known as "swamp cabbage" and few "Crackers" live who can't tell you all about it. Fetching your own isn't recommended for a tenderfoot, as we discovered recently, but in spite of the hazards even tenderfeet find the trip worthwhile. You can forget all about the snakes you thought you saw, and splinters you know you felt when you chomp into a steaming piece of Palm Heart cooked on electric or wide open range. It has a taste that needs no treatment, yet holds its own with several.

A pint of oysters splashed into it turns Swamp

Cabbage into Chinese Oyster Stew, because the flavor and consistency of the Palm Bud is rather like a hybrid born of bamboo shoots and water chestnuts. Raw, it has a nut-like flavor and habit of making one bite lead to another. And boiled with a ham hock or hunk of salt pork, it's old southern cooking that keeps calling you back for more.

There are a few secrets though that make swamp cabbage easier to get and to eat. The first lies in picking the tree with the biggest heart. It isn't always the biggest tree. The fullness of fronds is a better guide; you might say, the more fronds the more heart. To make matters easier, pick a low Palm, then swing the axe lazily and trim the fronds from one side of the tree. The top of the bud is usually about two feet below the top of the tree—or just below the newest growth of fronds. The heart is oblong, so to avoid chopping it in two and leaving most of it behind, it's better to have a veteran chopper with you to guide your first attempt. When cutting into the tree, you should aim for the bottom of the heart.

If you do your chopping carefully, the bud should pop out as the tree rips open and you will be able to pull it out. If this sounds like hard work, take heart also from the fact that the brown bear goes after his



Big hearted prize, just pulled from the tree.



swamp cabbage without aid of axe and only his paws to work with. After the bud is removed it requires a bit of peeling to get to the sweet, tender center. Chop the ends clean until a white center is exposed, then make a sharp slice with axe or knife down the entire length of the bud and peel off the outer layers. A "bite test" will show the rest of the way. The first peelings will have only one or two edible inches at each end; the center area will be darker, tougher, and slightly bitter. As you peel closer the core, the peeling becomes lighter in color and more of it may be trimmed from the ends for eating. Breaking it with your fingers will replace the "bite test" if you've made too many (few can resist it) and gotten too full. Edible chunks will snap easily from the edges with no strings attached.

A portable Palm Heart can be made by pulling back a strip of the fibrous outer bark to a halfway mark. This makes a handy handle. Two hearts can be carried over-shoulder by tying the ends of these strips together. When you get your Florida Cabbage back to kitchen or cooking grounds, the remainder is cleaned and chopped easily with a paring knife.

The pure heart is a meaty white substance put together like a giant celery stalk. As it's trimmed, it falls into half-moon slices which should

be about half an inch thick. As you get nearer the core, you will be able to slice closer toward the middle; however, a tough spot usually persists throughout the bud's dead-center portion. When you've got your tender trimmings all together, a quick washing makes them ready for the pot.

Boiling time varies from a half hour on, during which the cabbage should be tested for tenderness. There's never any trouble finding volunteer tasters should the job get too much for you. Plenty of "Pot Likker" should be around it, so twice as much water as cabbage makes a good rule of thumb for the pot. Add more as needed to keep a generous amount of broth around



Author up to her teeth in swamp cabbage.

table. It should be noted that a common failing of swamp cabbage eaters is to gobble it up so fast that other foods are usually neglected if they aren't right there under-nose.

Standard fare for Florida hunters is squirrel and swamp cabbage—cooked by camp fire. Of course, no Florida fish fry is complete without a caldron of bubbling swamp cabbage, but its other dinner partners are still varied and many. Raw, it's an excellent basis for salad, though it should be doused when cut with lemon juice to prevent darkening. Cooked it's at home with anything, and usually stealing the limelight.

Maybe Nature's gift for harmony makes swamp cabbage taste best with other wild life; squirrel, 'coon, rabbit, or freshly captured fish, because these combinations are about as perfect and tantalizing as any you can find. Put any one of them with a hungry you under a lazy twilight sky, and mix in a camp fire, the song of "fish" and "rice" birds, and a Florida foliage decor. It'll drive you absolutely native in no time at all. Even without these trimmings, swamp cabbage does a fair job of it. It just seems to have the perfect taste to go with Florida's face.

So it's not only true that no one need starve in Florida—but you can bet your taste buds no one's going to, as long as Florida's growing enough Palm Trees to have a heart like this. ●



Peeling bud's outer bark.

the cabbage, and don't worry about it being wasted. It's more likely to be spirited away during the middle of the night.

As the water becomes nature's own bouillon, the juicy heart of Florida becomes tender and succulent. True to its flavor, swamp cabbage has a cooking odor all its own, aromatic and penetrating, and whetting appetites quicker than Sherry Wine. Meat and other side dishes should be present and accounted for as the cooked palm bud goes on the



Cutting the heart down to size.





"Wolf in sheep's clothing"

# this story is BEASTLY, FISHY AND FOWL

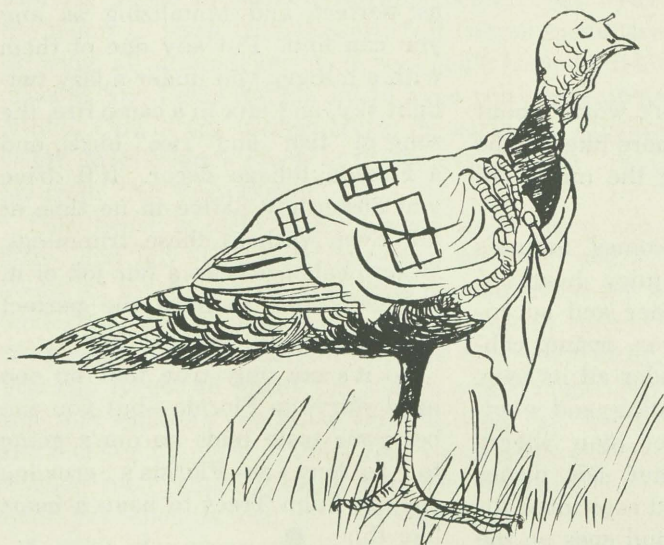
By JAY CASEY

**W**HILE THIS YARN would undoubtedly pass the sternest censor, it is absolutely teeming with *beastly* words. In fact, some of them are positively *reptilian*. Others are exceedingly *fishy*, while some are even down right *fowl*, but not foul!

Down through the ages man has depended largely on *animals* for food, clothing and transportation. So, with such intimacy existing, it is not suprising that wild and domesticated *beasts* and *fowls*, as well as *fish*, *reptiles* and *insects* have furnished inspiration for numerous colorful word-combinations, phrases, slang expressions and proverbs which so aptly describe man's various characteristics.

We all know that an eccentric person is, indeed, "a queer *fish*," while the man with lax morals may be either "a loose *fish*," "a sad *dog*," "a black *sheep*," "a *snake* in the grass," or "a *wolf* in sheep's clothing."

"Poor as Jobs turkey"



The chap with "bull-dog courage" will "fight like a *tiger*," "take the *bull* by the horns," "beard the *lion* in his den," "bell the *cat*," and "lick his weight in *wild-cats*." While the "pigeon-hearted" has "no more backbone than a *jellyfish*," is "in face a *lion*, but in heart a *deer*," and "can't say boo to a *goose*."

"With a *wolf* in the stomach," the "*whale* of a fellow" "as hungry as a *bear*," is usually as "greedy as a *hog*" and eats anything because he has "the stomach of an *ostrich*." Whereas the "*shrimp* of a man" "does not eat enough to keep a *bird* alive."

The "*coony*" successful man is "a regular *shark*," just "as sly as a *fox*," and may put over "a *fishy* transaction." Even though the deal is "not *cricket*," this "slippery as an *eel*" gent with the "cunning of a *serpent*," comes up with a regular "*cock and bull*" explanation.

The guileless guy "not up to *beaver*," invariably "puts a saddle on the wrong *horse*," "gets the wrong *sow* by the ear," and "wears his heart upon his sleeve for the *daws* to peck," and is nothing but a "*jackdaw* in *peacock's* feathers."

The man in "fine *feather*" is usually "as strong as a *lion*," "sound as a *roach*," and "hearty as a *buck*." While he may be "as big as an *elephant*" he is as "nimble as a *squirrel*" and "as graceful as a *swan*."

The *hare-brained* person, usually "as clumsy as a *cow*," is variously known as a "*donkey*," beetle-head "*moon-calf*," "*colt*" or "*sheep*." But the intellectual is "as wise as an *owl*," and "has plenty of *horse* sense."

"*Bees* in one's bonnet," "*rats* in the upper story," "*bats* in the belfry," "mad as a *March-hare*," and "as crazy as a *loon*" are common expressions denoting insanity.

After being "*lion* of the day," "going the whole *hog*," "making *ducks* and *drakes* of his money," "a gay *dog*" soon is trying "to keep the *wolf* from the door." "Craw-



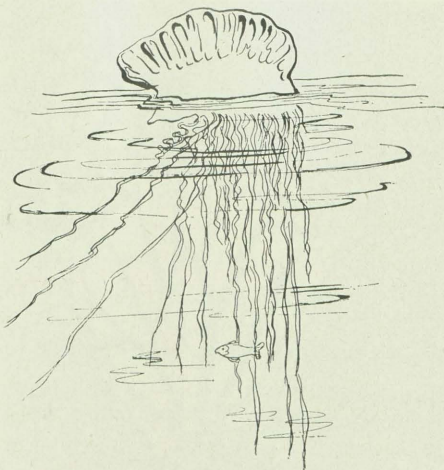
fishing," "fawning" and "shedding crocodile tears," he becomes a "sponge," and is as "poor as Job's turkey." While the "lucky dog," realizing that "one bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," "feathered his nest," and now has a "chicken in every pot."

The poor "scapegoat" with a "hang-dog look" is called "cat's paw," "decoy duck," and "lion's provider." The swaggering lad likes to be called "tiger," but a deserter does not like the title commonly given him—"rat." An extremely repulsive person is frequently called a "skunk," and the hypocrite "holds with the hare but runs with the hounds."

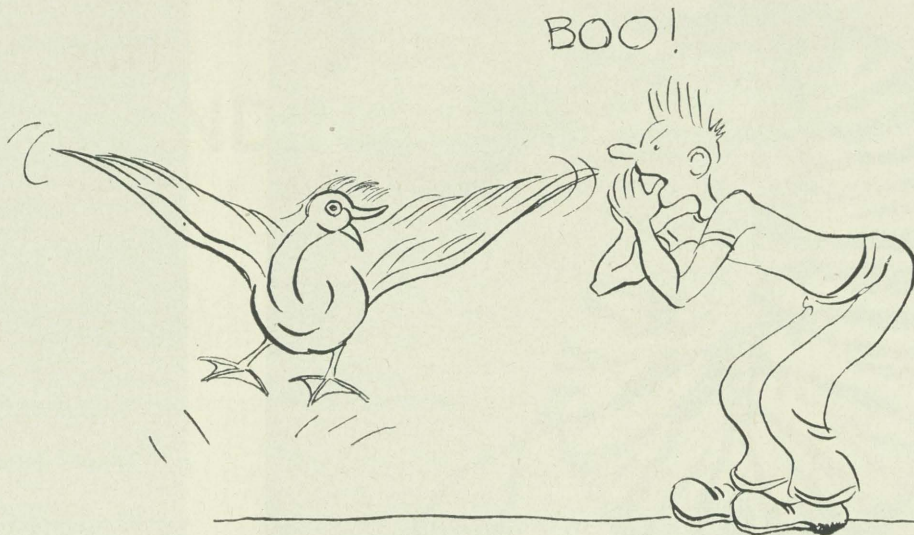
The ill-tempered is "as cross as a sore-headed bear," "sour as a crab," mad as a wet hen," "angry as a hornet," and "stubborn as a mule." But the mild-tempered is "as gentle as a lamb," and as "innocent as a dove."

"Beastly" phrases denoting cheerfulness are many, but some of the most popular are: "As merry as a cricket," playful as a kitten," "gay as a lark," "chipper as a sparrow," "jolly as a thrush," and in opposition one may be as "blue as a whale."

In watching some one "strut like a gobbler," how often have you heard others say: He is "as vain as a peacock," he thinks "he is the only frog in the puddle," or "he doesn't know that it takes more than one swallow to make a summer?"



"—a fishy transaction"



"Can't say boo to a goose"

The reserved person "clams up," and is "as silent as an oyster," or "as mute as a giraffe," but such is not the case of "a regular parrot," who "talks like a magpie," "chatters like a monkey" and can "talk the hind leg off a donkey." To be ready "to skin the bear," or "to talk turkey," means it is time to proceed to essentials. "To hear a bird sing," or "to have a bug put in your ear," is to receive information that is not well known. "To let the cat out of the bag" is to tell a secret, but "to see a wolf" means loss of voice.

Violence and disorder is often described as "like a wild-cat defending her young," and "like a bull in a china shop." Concerning any abnormality we say it is "like a fish out of water," "like a cat in a strange garret," and that "it is neither fish nor fowl nor good red herring."

To do the impossible is aptly expressed in these oldies: "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," "you'll never catch a bird by sprinkling salt on its tail," and "you can't catch a weasel napping."

What could be a more fitting description for futile efforts than "he's off on another wild goose chase," or "no use in locking the stable after the horse is stolen," or "don't cast your pearls before swine?"

It never pays in the long run to "play possum," "draw a red herring across your trail or "get on your high horse," because sooner or later

you'll get your "tail feathers plucked."

Don't let it "get your goat" if someone says he "has a crow to pick with you," because he may just be "making a mountain out of a mole hill." It is true that a "cry of wolf" or a "bug bear" are often "swallowed hook, line and sinker" by the "sucker." And the irresponsible person often "buys a pig in a poke," "counts his chickens before they are hatched," and "brings a hornet's nest down about his ears."

As precautionary measures these are offered: "Let sleeping dogs lie," "don't monkey with a buzz saw," and "don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs," "wait and see just how the cat jumps."

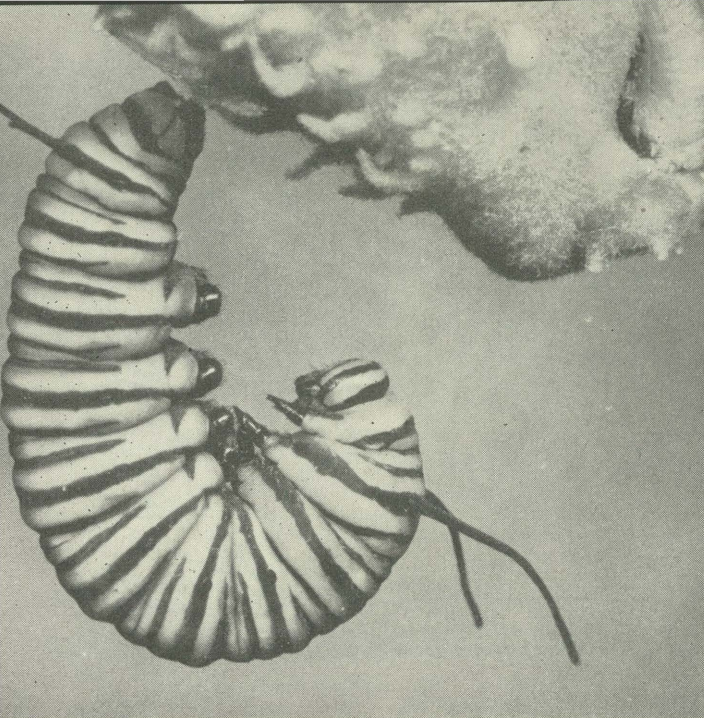
It is said of the inebriate that "he drank like a fish," got "as drunk as a stewed owl" and "took a hair of the dog that bit him." After which he most likely "saw pink elephants," and "had snakes in his boots."

Activeness and keenness of vision are synonymous with such phrases as: "Eagle-eyed," "eyes like a hawk," "eyes like a lynx," "swift as a swallow," "eagle-winged," "run like a quail," "work like a beaver," "as busy as a bee in a tar barrel," and "as busy as a hen with one chick."

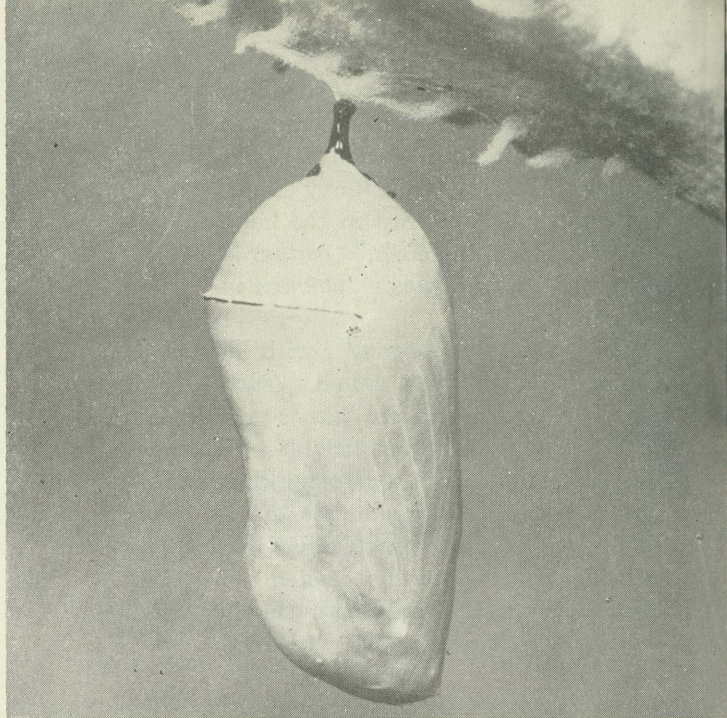
In contrast, there are phrases "as blind as a bat," "as blind as a mole," "as blind as a beetle," and "goes at

(Continued on Page 42)





The monarch caterpillar attaches itself to a milkweed seed pod after eating leaves of the plant almost constantly for one to two weeks.



The caterpillar forms a pale green case around itself. Inside, the pupa breaks down and the adult butterfly develops in about 10 days.

# THE MONARCH

By JOHN H. GERARD

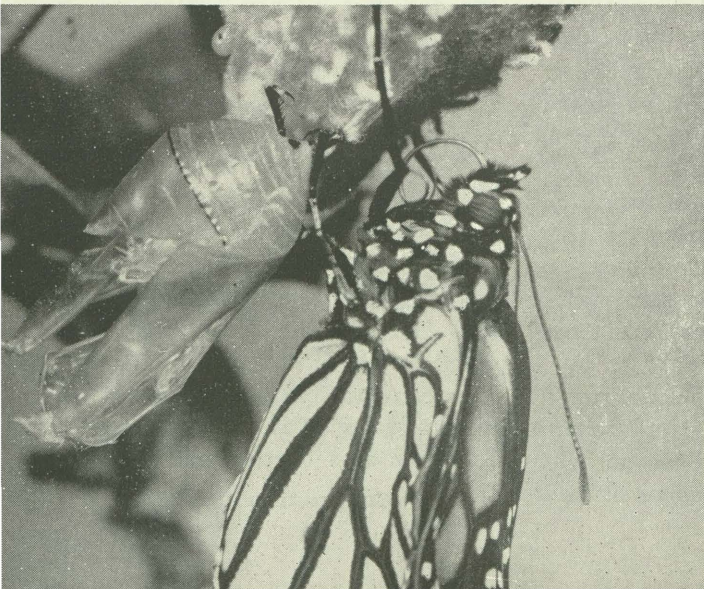
**T**HE MONARCH, probably one of the best known of North American butterflies, is a migratory species. In the fall they move southward enmasse. With the approach of warm weather, they begin moving northward again, this time singly.

The insects summer over much of the U.S. and Canada. Eggs are laid, during the warmer months,

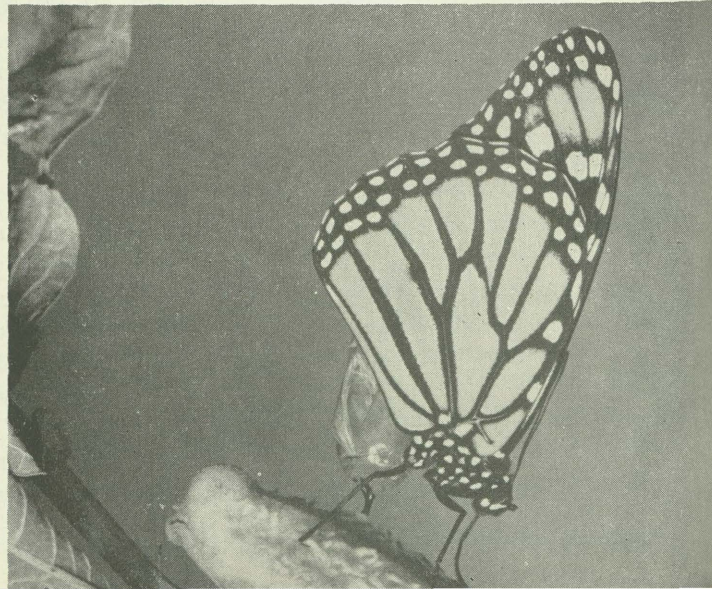
on milkweed plants. During a spring and summer as many as three generations may evolve.

Milkweed and nightshade leaves are the chief dietary items of the caterpillars. Birds supposedly shun the monarch as food, perhaps as a result of the insect's diet of bitter or poisonous plants. ●

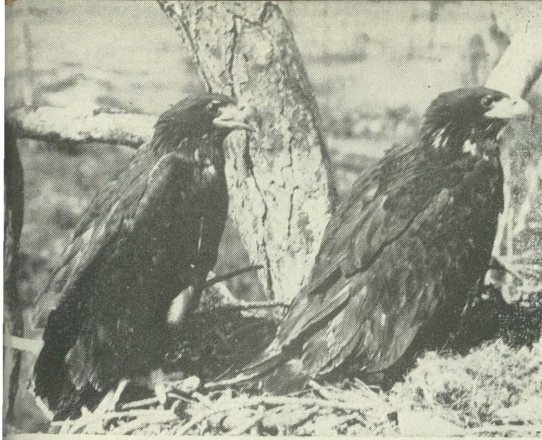
The butterfly breaks out of its cell, its wings not fully expanded. Notice long nectar-drinking tongue, coiled like a watch spring.



The adult is entirely different in structure, appearance, and color from the young state. After mating, the female lays eggs that hatch into caterpillars.







Eagles at 11 weeks of age. They usually start to fly when 12 weeks old.

# BANDING THE EAGLE

By MYRTLE J. BROLEY

**“YOU’RE NOT STILL BANDING EAGLES! Why you must be —”**

“Seventy-seven my last birthday,” C. L. Broley smiled happily. “Yes, put tags on two yesterday and one the day before.”

“But you don’t climb up to the nests yourself?” This man who had photographed Charlie some fifteen years ago looked him over carefully.

“Sure I do. Climbed one of the hardest I ever had to tackle just a few months ago.”

Broley is a compact five foot ten and weighs about one hundred fifty pounds. His blue eyes are as bright as ever and he wears glasses only for reading and not always then. At an age when many people find it difficult enough to walk on the ground, he pulls himself from limb to limb in the high trees after climbing up to the first crotch by means of a rope ladder. He often makes several trips up and down so that those interested in taking pictures of him or the young eagles may be able to do so. His greatest worry at the present time is that the supply of nests and young will give out before he is ready to call a halt.

When C. L. Broley reached the peak of his work in Florida in 1946, he had some one hundred and thirty-six nests under observation between New Port Richey and Fort Myers. Now there are only about sixteen. Many of these are not used or are in sites where the big birds are kept off their eggs for such lengthy periods due to building or other human activity in the vicinity that a good many of the eggs spoil.

Recent developments along Florida’s coastlines, the eagle’s favorite haunts, have seen trees cut, marsh land filled in and many, many houses, motels, and other buildings erected. In some cases the birds, reluctant to leave a spot which has been their happy hunting ground for so many years, stay around but do not nest. Other pairs have retreated into the almost impenetrable cypress swamps. There they should be able to nest safely for few men will follow them there. In some cases the large eyries may be located a hundred feet or more above the ground. As if this did not make the eagle banding hazardous enough, the trees often stand in water in which moccasins lurk and are reached through jungles in which rattlesnakes may be encountered, where catclaw and other thorned vines tear not only the clothing but the skin as well.

Broley is seriously worried about the eagle situation. At one time he knew of nests all along the coastline. Few of these are left and of those which remain, a number are not being used by the eagles. True, a new nest is discovered now and then and there are a few cases in which an eyrie, untenanted for many years, has been refurbished and put back into use.

The bald eagle, the national emblem of the United States, is a magnificent bird. The pure white head and tail show off to advantage against the dark plumage of the body. The wing spread of a fully grown eagle is seven feet, a most impressive sight against the blue sky as the bird soars majestically.

Eagles mate for life but not until they have acquired their proper plumage, at about five years of age. On the death of one of a pair, a new mate is chosen quickly, especially in late fall or early spring. The birds then use the old eyrie.

In Florida the eggs are laid in late autumn or early winter. The clutch may be one or two, rarely three. Both parents help in the incubation as well as in the building of the big structure in which the eggs are laid.

The young hatch about thirty-five days after incubation begins. Both parents bring food to the nest and help in the feeding. At first the food is torn into very small pieces and gently proffered to the eaglet. As it grows, however, it learns to tear up its own food so the adults merely bring the provisions to the eyrie. In Florida, fish is the favorite offering and the coarser kinds, such as catfish, are preferred. In all the nests he has examined, Broley has found the remains of poultry in only two. He has seen the big birds tearing up snakes, including rattlers, also rats, raccoons and other small mammals. He found twenty-eight catfish heads in one nest. Never has he found signs of lambs, shoats or other barnyard animals.

While eagles take exception to other of their kind nesting too near them, they pay little attention to small birds and we often see Oriole’s nest quite near. Broley has often been amused to see mocking birds feeding on top of an eyrie while the eaglets looked on quietly.

One season Broley banded one hundred fifty young eagles. Last year the count had fallen to three but so far this year he has tagged seven and there are a few

*(Continued on Page 40)*



# PARDON WHILE I SCRATCH

By JIM LEE

Poisonous vines probably cause more  
discomforts than any other summertime pest.  
Here are some facts on the big three which  
can mar an otherwise happy vacation.

**A**LMOST EVERY FAMILY has its collection of favorite tales about the screwball antics of some member, and ours is no exception. Most of our stories involve Cousin Bill, who finally had to be put away for his own safe-keeping. One story about Bill didn't seem so funny when it happened, but in retrospect it seems rather ridiculous.

Bill liked to wander through the woods on a Sunday afternoon, and when he found a likely spot he'd settle down for a bit of meditating . . . usually propped against the base of a tall pine tree. One afternoon Bill had some particularly serious meditating to do, so he fashioned himself a toothpick—which he casually clipped from a vine growing on the tree. He whittled a keen point on the twig and carefully picked the remains of Granny's fine Sunday dinner from his teeth. Then he chewed philosophically as he relaxed in the warm sunshine.

As the sun sank behind the trees he got up and headed for home and supper. Granny prided herself on good cooking, and it took a bit of whispered explaining on Bill's part when Bill gagged on the first bite of supper. He couldn't swallow; his throat was so swollen that he could hardly talk. You guessed it—that vine from which Bill made his toothpick was poison ivy!

It took about two weeks for the swelling to settle down to the point where Bill could eat solid food again. He was lucky at that—if he hadn't been in a spittin' mood there's no telling what damage might have been done to his intestinal system. You can be sure that from then on Bill regarded poison ivy and its relatives with a great deal of respect.

A lot of people let themselves in for considerable discomfort through lack of knowledge concerning poisonous vines. Along the Eastern Seaboard there are three closely related species that can cause dermatitis, or irritation of the skin. More confusion exists over the names of these plants than about any other group of commonly known plants.

Some writers insist on spelling as one word any plant name that could conceivably give a false impres-

sion if spelled as two words. Since we are not dealing with a true ivy, these writers would have us spell it "poisonivy"—one word. Others prefer to hyphenate in order to distinguish between true plant relationships and false relationships—thus we sometimes see "poison-oak" with a hyphen to indicate that this really isn't an oak. Poison-ivy, poisonivy, or poison ivy—it's the same plant and the same itch. You pays your money and you takes your choice.

## Poison Ivy

The most common of the three poisonous plants is poison ivy. A member of the Sumac family, its scientific, or Latin, name is *Rhus toxicodendron* variety *radicans*. Each leaf consists of three leaflets which are glossy green. The leaf distribution is alternate; one leaf comes off the stem on one side and the next higher or lower branches off from the other side. Box elder and the various species of ash often have three leaflets but the leaves are opposite—where one leaf branches off there is another on the other side of the stem to match it. Virginia creeper is often confused with poison ivy, but bears five leaflets rather than three.

The stem of poison ivy is generally smooth, without fine hairs, and commonly grows around another plant for support. Where no support is available the vine will resemble a shrub and grow in bushy form. Fruit is in clusters, ripening into waxy white berries. Although most of the poison is concentrated in actively growing parts such as the tips of new leaves, poison is present in all parts of the plant including the bark of old stems. The poison is persistent, and cases are known of people being poisoned months after the plant was dead.

## Poison Oak

Not so common but equally dangerous is the oak-leaf poison ivy, or poison oak. It was the first to fall into the hands of the plant namers, and after scratching around a bit (that's a pun, but I can just picture old Linneus!) they came up with the name *Rhus toxicodendron*, the second part of the name meaning "poisonous wood." It well may be a variety of poison ivy,





Poison Oak or Oakleaf Poison Ivy commonly grows in the shrub form although it too may be a climber on occasion.

rather than the reverse, but poison ivy carries the suffix "variety *radicans*." At any rate, it's mean stuff to tamper with. Oakleaf poison ivy commonly grows in the shrub form, although it too may be a climber on occasion.

As with the common poison ivy, the oakleaf variety has three leaflets, but these are bluntly lobed and the individual leaflets resemble the leaves of some oaks. The common poison ivy leaflets are sharply notched or have smoothly-margined edges. Poison ivy has hairless stems; oakleaf poison ivy stems are covered with many small hairs. Oakleaf poison ivy is an eastern species. On the West Coast another species is called poison oak; thus to be proper in our name-calling we refer to the eastern form as oakleaf poison ivy. The next time your fishing companion stumbles into a thicket of the stuff console him by reciting the fine distinction between the two.

#### Poison Sumac

The third species is poison sumac. The familiar winged sumac of old fields, with its rusty red head of berries in the fall of the year, is a close relative of the poison sumac, but may be distinguished by its "wings"—small ribs which grow along the stem between leaflets. Poison sumac, which grows only in swampy places, lacks these wings, and the leaves droop more than those of the winged sumac.

Poison sumac leaves have from seven to thirteen leaflets on one reddish stem. After retrieving your favorite bass plug from a healthy shrub of poison sumac, your physician may inform you that *Rhus*



Poison Ivy commonly grows around another plant for support. Where no support is available it will grow in bushy form.

*vernix* is the most potent of the three poisonous plants and occasionally grows along the water's edge where the unwary fisherman can tangle with it to his subsequent dismay.

The poison that causes itching is a non-volatile substance called urushiol. There again we find little consolation in knowing of the thing. The fact that urushiol is non-volatile, or not readily vaporized, does not prevent droplets from mingling with the smoke of burning plants. You cannot acquire poisoning just by looking at the stuff, but sensitive people can be poisoned by standing in the smoke of burning leaves and vines. By penetrating the skin through pores, the oil reaches the tender layers under the skin and causes irritation, followed by blisters. These blisters contain only minute quantities of poison, and irritation cannot be spread by breaking the blisters. One should not break the blisters, however, since germs can then enter and cause infections.

History doesn't record the remarks of the first person to have been poisoned by one of these plants, but they must have been pretty choice. The colonists encountered poison ivy soon after their arrival, and their recommendations for treatment reflect the rough-and-readiness of the times. They employed a poultice of gunpowder and milk. Since then just about everything under the sun has been tried. Let's face it—the only sure-fire way to keep from itching is to stay out of the stuff to begin with. If you come in contact with leaves or stem, wash yourself as soon as possible.

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# THE EYES HAVE IT

By ROSS PHARES

Wherever you wander in the great  
outdoors you are being watched.  
Here is the lowdown on some of the many  
eyes observing your every move.

**W**HEN YOU WALK into the outdoors hundreds of eyes focus upon you—eyes wonderfully built for an endless variety of peculiar needs. A high flying bird, a mile distant, may see you through telescopic optics, and a near-sighted insect, a few inches away, may scrutinize you with hundreds of its simple seeing organs. The imagination of man doubtless will never fashion anything in so many splendid varieties as has the generous hand of nature in providing visual organs for her creatures.

The most extraordinary eyes probably are possessed by birds. You can't look a bird in the eye and judge the size of it. His head is literally filled with eyeballs, crowding his brain into much less space. The eyes of many birds weigh twice as much as their brains—such as the red-tailed hawk, and the tawny eagle. Those of the greater bustard weigh over three times as much as his brain. Some owls and hawks, though their bodies may weigh less than a hundredth as much as a man's, have eyes larger than a man's.

These eyes are both telescopic and microscopic. An eagle high in the air, or on a mountain peak may spot prey miles away. And it's understandable that a crow from a distant treetop can distinguish between a gun and a stick in a hunter's hand. In the seeing department man is no match for the birds. Dr. Thomas Shastid, who is a specialist in the structure and function of eyes, particularly animals', believes that, in many instances, the visual acuteness of birds is a hundred times as great as that in man. He has stated that a bit of grain that a man could barely see at a distance of a yard, a bird can distinctly see at a distance of one hundred yards.

Many scientists think this flatters the birds' vision. The consensus of opinion is, that to outdo the birds, we would need telescopes and/or microscopes to mul-

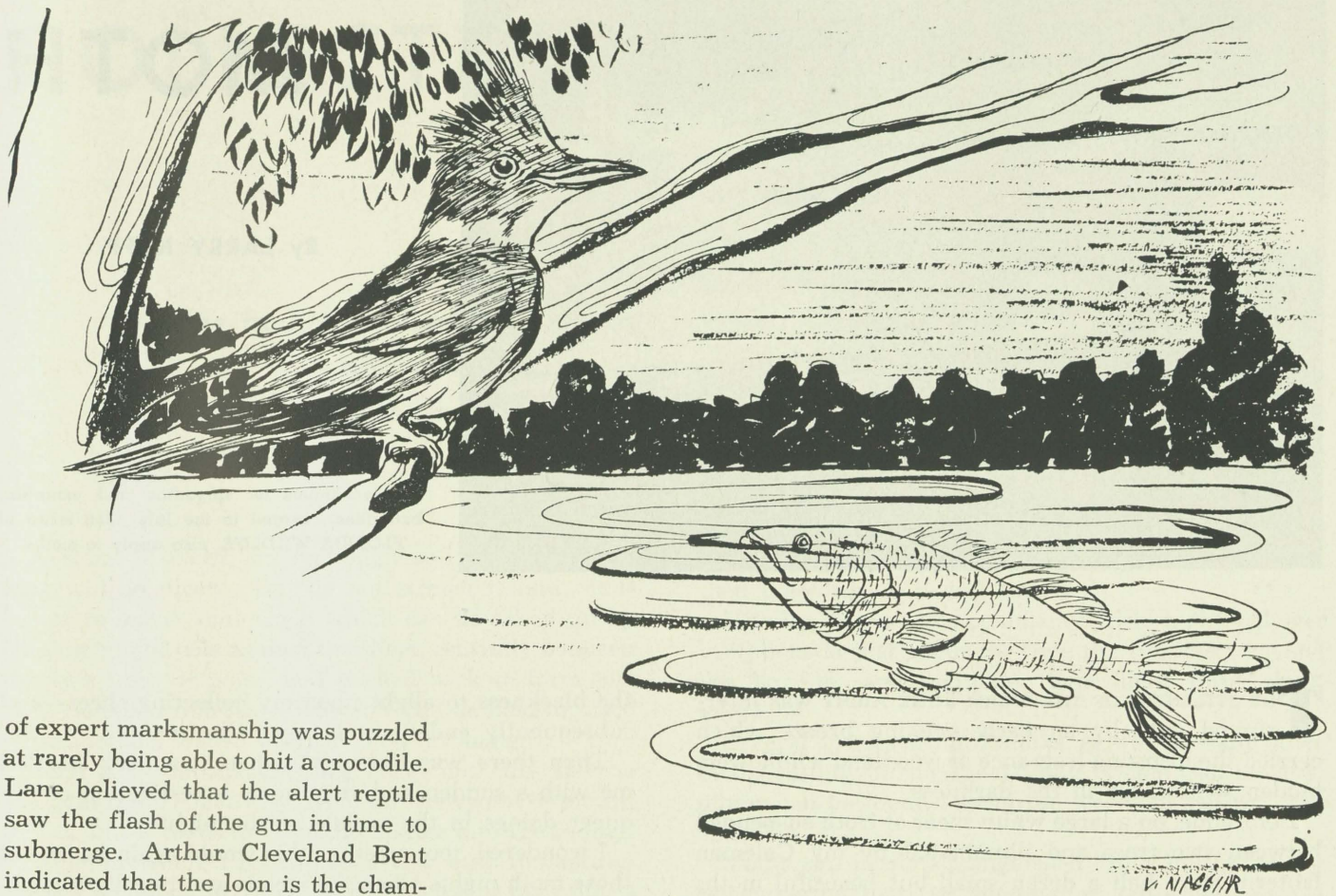
tiply our vision eight or ten fold. But even if we possessed this optical equipment we could never adjust fast enough to range and light to surpass their efficiency.

Some mammals have vision comparable to the birds. The antelope's eyes have a particularly wide angle range, and are so effective that the distance he can see is comparable to the distance a man could see with an eight-power telescope. Will Barker in *Familiar Animals of America*, published by Harper, quotes this comment by an old guide and hunter: "What a live antelope don't see between dawn and dark isn't visible from his standpoint; and while you're gawkin' at him thro' that 'ere glass to make out whether he's a rock or a goat, he's countin' your cartridges and fixin's, and makin' up his mind which way he'll scoot when you disappear in the draw to sneak on 'im."

The marksmanship of many hunters is probably much better than they think. They draw a bead accurately, and pull the trigger at the right time; but the animal sees the hammer fall, the flash of the gun, or the bullet come out of the barrel toward him and ducks. Many animals—we don't know how many—have eyes sharp enough that by virtue of their quick movements they can dodge bullets. The degree of success of the animal saving his skin in this fashion depends upon other factors, such as alertness, cunning, and quickness of movement. And of course, eyesight varies in members of the species as it does with people. The dull sighted of the species go first.

Frank W. Lane in *Animal Wonder World* retells the experience of several noted hunters in this connection: Charles St. John said that he found it impossible to strike a seal with ball—if he was watching. The seals would dive before the ball reached them. Otters and weasels have the same reputation. An African hunter





of expert marksmanship was puzzled at rarely being able to hit a crocodile. Lane believed that the alert reptile saw the flash of the gun in time to submerge. Arthur Cleveland Bent indicated that the loon is the champion dead eye bullet dodger. He told of a loon surrounded by gunners in a small cove on a river. Six or eight men, armed with breech-loading guns were stationed on both sides of the cove and on a railroad bridge across it, all in short range. "I should not dare to say for how long a time the loon succeeded in dodging their well-directed shots, or how many cartridges were wasted before the poor bird succumbed from sheer exhaustion; but it was an almost unbelievable record."

The underwater creatures see much better than is generally thought. The old saw about fishing lures being brightly colored just to attract the fisherman is an insult to any fish with comparable 20:20. The eyes of many fish doubtless are more sensitive to color than the fisherman's. A fish not only sees quite well, but he makes something of what he sees. He has a good eye for form. Fish in confinement that have been stuck with a hook have been known to refuse to come near a proffered worm unless it was straightened out. And many pet

lovers are convinced that fish recognize people. Even the lowly lobster may not forget a face. One confined in a small tank in England always put a claw out of the water when its keeper came along to feed it. But it was never known to extend a hand to a stranger. This is particularly remarkable in that to observe these distinguishing details the fish must see through both water and air at the same time.

For each peculiar need nature has provided specialized optical equipment. The chameleon is too slow and awkward to chase the prey it feeds on. Due to his remarkable ability to change his color to camouflage into his background, the lizard patiently waits for some dull-eyed or careless prey to blunder upon him. Without making the slightest movement of his head he can see in all directions at once. His eyeballs move independently. While he's watching a prey up front with one eye, he may have the other cocked to the rear to make sure no enemy is sneaking up on him while he's busy

getting a meal. The only movement is the spring of his tongue, more than half the length of his body, that harpoons the prey faster than the speed of sight. If the lizard was required to turn his head to see either his prey or his enemies, he would scare off his food, and/or render his camouflage advantage comparatively useless as protection.

The prairie dog lives in the intense, glaring sun of the shadeless plains. Thanks to an accommodating nature he is born, for all practical effects, wearing goggles. His eyes are provided with orange-colored lens which act as filters of the brilliant sun rays, permitting him comfort and efficiency while living among gleaming sand dunes and rocks.

On the other hand, some mammals that have taken to the water have developed "fish" eyes. The beaver with small eyes and tightly fitting lids apparently sees better under water than on land.

Many insects apparently feel safe at the business of pestering, because

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# MOTH

By LARRY KOPP

The techniques for spreading and mounting butterflies, covered in the July 1956 issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*, also apply to moths.

**T**HE STILLNESS OF THE WARM JUNE NIGHT was interrupted only by an early evening breeze which carried the inspiring fragrance of woodland wildflowers hidden somewhere in the darkness.

Before me, on a large white sheet of cloth suspended between two trees and illuminated by my Coleman lantern, were half a dozen small but beautiful moths dancing dazedly up and down.

As I watched them while waiting patiently to see what other strange creatures would show up on my lighted sheet, I began to think about the glorious adventures I'd had on preceding nights in the forest.

There was the time when a specimen of the unbelievably beautiful luna moth came hurtling out of

the blackness to alight upon my collecting sheet—and subsequently ended up in my collection!

Then there was the night when two deer startled me with a sudden and very noisy investigation of my queer doings in the middle of the night.

I wondered, too, whether this would again be one of those moth nights when the woods are literally swarming with winged beauties, and whether I would again find myself listening to the soul-refreshing sounds of songbirds singing just exactly at dawn. For many have been the nights when collecting was so good that I had no difficulty in remaining absorbed from dusk to dawn.

Of course, there is much to be said for a collection of multi-colored moths. In fact, because of their vast variety, there is even more to be said about moths than about their relatives—the butterflies.

However, with the exception of spreading and mounting techniques discussed in the July 1955 issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*, moth collecting is entirely different—so different, in fact, that it is a pursuit all by itself.

Unlike butterflies, which are collected largely at flowers with the aid of a net, moth collecting involves three distinct methods. Each one produces species which neither one of the others will.

From the standpoint of large numbers of moths, the most popular of these is light collecting. There are two ways to go about it: First, numerous species can easily be collected at porch lights, or on the walls of white buildings that are illuminated by electric lights. Even the lights of city streets are productive of many fine moths.

On the other hand, the most exciting way to collect moths at light, is to erect a collecting sheet in the woods—or in open country so that the light faces a woods, swamp, or field. Suspend a large white sheet of cloth between two appropriately located trees or between two especially erected poles.



Light collecting for moths is most exciting at an illuminated sheet of cloth erected in the woods.



# COLLECTING

## The author's collecting methods add new thrills to a fascinating nature hobby.

A sheet of cloth, six feet high and about ten feet long will do nicely. But do not stretch it taut. It is better to leave some slack which can be taken up by leaning a light pole against the sheet, centrally between the two trees or poles, and pushed back to form sort of a V-shaped reflector. This pole can be held in place with another, leaned against it on an angle.

Such a V-shaped collecting sheet not only reflects the light more effectively; from the viewpoint of moths, that is, but it tends to force the insects into the funnel-like center where they are relatively easy to capture.

Tack a pole to the trees, across the top of the collecting sheet, on which to hang your lantern. Hang the lantern so that its reflector casts the brilliant light upon the sheet.

Nets can be used—indeed, nets are most practical at times. But you will soon learn that the majority of moths attracted to the light can be caught by simply cupping an opened killing jar over them as they alight upon the cloth. (Killing jars were explained in the July 1955 issue.)

The vast majority of moths attracted to lights are the comparatively small, but exceedingly beautiful geometrids. However, there are times when a collector is unexpectedly surprised by the sudden appearance of one of the larger and more active species such as the luna, cecropia, polyphemus, and promethea.

Also attracted to lights, are some species of underwing moths. But to really collect a variety of these interesting, medium-sized moths, a collector must resort to another method known as sugaring.

Sugaring for moths involves the preparation of a liquid bait containing approximately two quarts of water, a half-pound of sugar, two or three tablespoonfuls of vinegar, and some molasses. The bait is then thoroughly mixed.

At dusk the bait is painted upon the trunks of trees or on top of stumps, with a regular paint brush. A few hours after dark, one revisits the painted trees, and finds, gathered here and there, lovely moths busily engaged in sipping the sweet mixture.

Of course, like in fishing, sometimes nothing will

bite. But even so, the fascinating thing about this method, is that you never know what to expect at the next tree.

If you are an observant hiker, some underwing moths can also be collected during the daytime when they rest, with folded wings, upon the trunks of trees where they appear as part of the bark. Thus, you will have to look closely in order to detect them.

In either case, underwing moths are best captured by cupping an opened killing jar over them. One must be very cautious, however, for they are extremely wary.

Still a third method involves the use of a net and a flashlight, to collect the various species of hawkmoths which visit tubular flowers at dusk to search for nectar. Most of these, often times colorful moths, are not attracted to either lights or sugar bait.

To catch them, the collector must wait near a bed of flowers until a specimen appears out of the dusk, then creep up on it and net it.

Usually, hawkmoths commence their nightly flower visitations at just about the time the sun sinks beyond the horizon, and continue their flight until about midnight.

Several species of hawkmoths, as well as some other moths, also fly during the daytime. Some visit flowers; others can be found among the weeds in swamps and fields.

Moths are easily distinguished from butterflies by remembering that the antennae of butterflies always end in a club-shape, while the antennae of moths are either feathery or come to a point. LUTZ' FIELD

*(Continued on Page 47)*



Save the trouble of supplying larvae with fresh food by placing them on a leafy branch and tying a piece of netting material over the leaves in bag-like fashion.



## THE EYES HAVE IT

(Continued from Page 35)

they see our slightest movement from any position, and are able to allude our blows. And you are not likely to slip up on one of these multi-eyed creatures. A dragon fly could be half asleep and perhaps still see you with a thousand of his estimated 25,000 optical organs. Surely it would be an exciting experience to view the world through the eyes of an insect. It is believed that these insects see the world in about as many views as they have units in their compound visual organs.

Doubtless the most frightening, and misunderstood, eyes are those of snakes. Due to the claim that some snakes strike from heat direction by their intended victims rather than by sight, some people have supposed that the serpent is a comparatively weak-eyed creature. My observations, seeing them strike at inanimate objects, and the tremendous speed of racers rushing past obstacles, convince me that they have efficient vision. Though I have wondered if some are not near-sighted—having seen racers apparently startled or mystified at coming suddenly upon another animal.

Because the eyes of snakes have a fixed, stary expression they have been mistakenly credited with the power of hypnotism. The snake holds this fierce, wide-eyed stare because it has no movable eyelids, and therefore can never bat its eyes. The eyes are covered with transparent caps to prevent injury. It gets a new "windshield" each time it sheds its skin, about three times a year.

Nature seems to compensate with one sense what is lacking in another. A dog smells and hears so keenly it is not generally suspected that his vision is comparatively weak. Some deficiencies we can only wonder at. The bee can see ultraviolet, but is apparently color-blind to red. This has some interesting results. This spring I never saw a bee in my yard until the pear tree bloomed in white, though camellias, azaleas, and other

red flowers had been blooming for weeks. On the day I observed hundreds of bees in the pear tree, I discovered one lonely bee in a flowering camellia bush directly under it; and a blooming redbud tree, more pink than red, that touched the branches of the pear had perhaps a dozen bees in it. I understand that very few red flowers are fertilized by bees.

One of the strangest compensations takes place in the flounder. This fish has the odd habit of swimming on its side. The infant flounder begins life with eyes on opposite sides of its head, like any other fish. But as it matures and takes to swimming on its side, the eyes, to match this unnatural position, grow slowly toward each other until they are on top of the fish's head.

Lack of use has been the ruin of sight in some animals. Why the kiwi quit looking where he was going and started smelling his way around is a mystery. But now that the bird has long used his nose instead of eyes, he's perhaps the most near-sighted thing in feathers. He can see about two feet ahead of himself in daylight, perhaps six feet at night.

The sand-boa has eyes so minute as to be almost invisible. The stinging scorpion has a number of eyes. But it has stayed in the dark so much it appears unable to see anything directly in front of it, with the handicapping result that it must wait for prey to come with reach of its grasp, instead of going forth seeingly to hunt it. The earthworm apparently has never needed vision beyond that of distinguishing light from darkness, and that is all it can do—by means of cells in its skin. And a certain lizard has lived so long underground feeding on the earthworm and following its habits that its eyes are now completely beneath its skin.

Whatever a creature needs to see, whether little or much, an understanding nature has provided the necessary equipment for it. Feats of the eyes are so remarkable, the more we learn about them the more we marvel. ●

## dog chatter

By GEORGE CROWLEY

**T**HERE IS CONSIDERABLE argument among dog fanciers as to whether dogs are color-blind or not, and as to how distinctly they can see.

Most authorities agree that they are color-blind; that everything they look at to them seems to be some shade or other of what we human beings call gray. If a dog distinguishes, say, the red from the green from the yellow in a changing traffic light, it is probably the difference of the depth of each grayness.

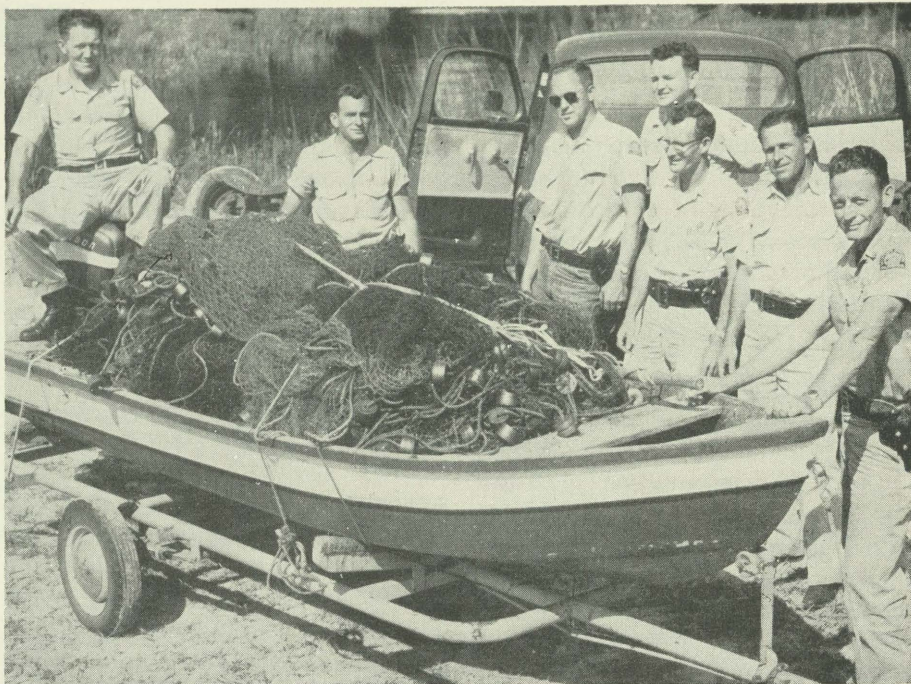
Sight-hounds—dogs of the several breeds of the general greyhound family—seem to have vision as sharp as a Plains Indian's. Certainly they distinguish and pursue game by use of their eyes, not their noses. But most researchers are convinced that it is general outline, not the specific detail by which we distinguish, say, an antelope or a deer, and particularly movement, that a greyhound appreciates with his eyes. That is why a racing greyhound is as satisfied to pursue a mechanical rabbit as he is the real thing.

Scent-hounds—beagles, coon-hounds, foxhounds, bloodhounds, etc.—depend on their noses so completely that often quarry which such a dog is pursuing can run right past the pursuer's eyes without distracting the dog's attention from the track left by the pursued animal's scent. Authorities agree that all dogs use their sense of scent and their ears for most of the purposes that people use their eyes.

Nevertheless no dog whose sight is failing or who has become blind is as happy as before his sight was impaired. Consequently correct care of a dog's eyes is extremely important. Any eye injury should be treated instantly by the best eye doctor available. This specifically includes ulcers which often result from eye injuries which are otherwise slight, dust or similar irritations, and colds. ●



# AROUND THE STATE



Equipment valued at approximately \$2,500 was seized recently in the arrest of two men accused of conducting illegal seining operations in the Lake Rosalie area near Lake Wales. Apprehension of the violators climaxed a coordinated effort by ten officers during a two-week period. Wildlife Officers working on the case included; l. to r. Virgil Boyette, Gene Guy, Allen Neal, Jim Mills, "Doc" Dunn, W. C. Myrick and "Teke" Williams, shown above with some of the confiscated equipment.



Fisheries Technician Bill Woods examines a rare South American catfish recently caught by Mr. Vero Miguels, in Six Mile Creek near East Broadway in Tampa.

This is the fourth specimen of *Plecostmus* known to have been taken from the south Florida stream. The specimens are believed to have escaped from a tropical fish hatchery. The normal range of the species is from Nicaragua southward into South America.



A coyote, far from the normal range of the species, was recently captured near Lake Louise in Lake County. Traps set for a mysterious marauder raiding poultry flocks in the area proved the coyote's downfall. Another of the species was found dead in the same area. Clermont sportsmen Traynor and DuBoes display the freshly trapped "prairie wolf."



## PARDON WHILE I SCRATCH

(Continued from Page 33)

A strong laundry soap helps in washing, but don't use a brush. Yearly injections of anti-poison ivy vaccine seems to help in some cases—for the extremely sensitive outdoorsman it's worth a try.

Most often the first inkling we have that we've been poisoned is when we wake up in the middle of the night and find we have scratched and scratched in our sleep until the raw and burning skin is covered with blisters. This may happen as much a week after exposure, depending on the toughness of the skin in the affected area. By then it's no longer a matter of prevention but rather a problem of treatment. Scratching may temporarily relieve the urge to do something about the itch, but all that is really accomplished is that the skin is opened to infections.

A much more effective means of reducing the irritation is to apply one of the many commercial poison ivy remedies. Some of these preparations contain mild local anesthetics to reduce the pain, while other agents in the medicine aid in drying up the blisters. Most of the liquid preparations contain alcohol, of the rubbing variety, to help dry up the blisters. One of the better non-commercial remedies is a dilute solution of sodium thiosulphate: bathe the rash every few hours. Commonly called hypo by photographers, sodium thiosulphate may be purchased in crystalline form. It is harmless to clothing, which cannot be said for all the commercial preparations.

Some paragraphs back we probably lost one group of readers—the lucky folk who seem to enjoy a natural immunity to ivy poisoning. They never appear to be bothered by it, no matter how much exposure they receive. How do you go about getting this kind of immunity? You don't. Everyone is born with the same kind of immunity that they enjoy, to a greater or lesser extent. For most of us, that immunity is

lost the first time we come into contact with the poison. The first exposure, generally, results in the blood building up anti-bodies that react in the form of the familiar rash upon subsequent exposure. The fortunate few have never acquired the anti-bodies in their blood-streams. They can acquire them, though, with *sufficient* exposure, as many have discovered after boldly demonstrating their immunity. One demonstration too many, and no immunity. In fact, thereafter they seem to be more susceptible than anyone else.

Oh, by the way! Remember the old song about lambs and kids eating ivy? That was no doubt the lovely English ivy of hollowed halls that the song-writer had in mind. Don't try it, not even on a lamb. Berries and leaves cause severe poisoning to both people and cattle. ●

## BANDING THE EAGLE

(Continued from Page 31)

more to be banded. Both very warm weather and chilly periods take a toll of eggs and young should the parents be kept off the eggs for any considerable period of time.

There are still eagles in Florida though they are growing far less common than in former times. Per-



"Well, first you find a tourist

haps when the boom in building is over and things are quieter, they may nest more successfully and Florida will again be the state in which the most bald eagles are to be found. One town is certainly looking forward to this era. There is quite a concentration of eagles around Englewood, though not many have nested successfully in the last few years. The residents are planning to change one letter in the name of their town making it Eaglewood instead. "After all," they say, "There are many Englewoods but this will be the only Eaglewood." ●

## JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

(Continued from Page 7)

12. Must have assisted one other camper to attain a degree.

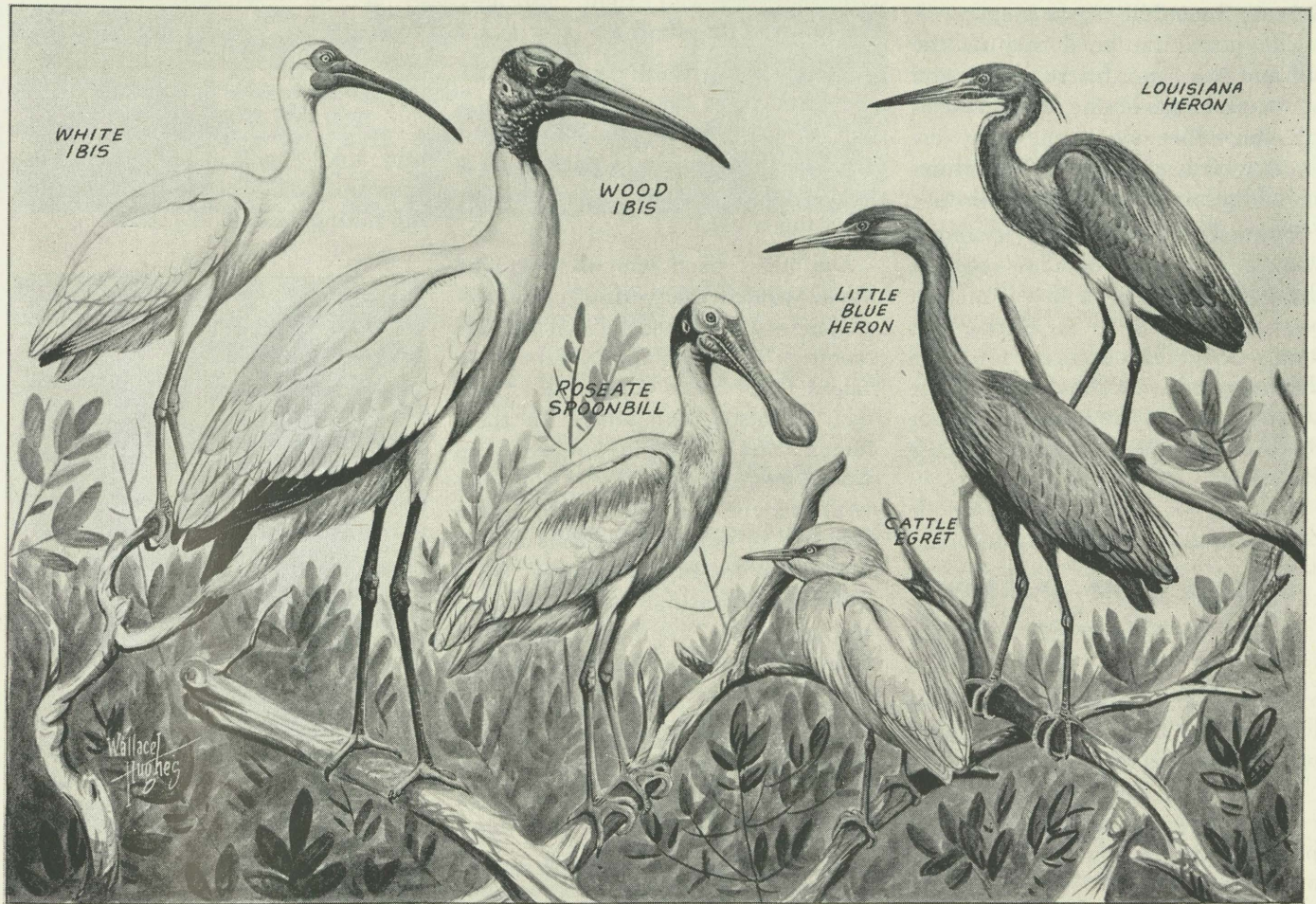
### DEGREE OF THE PANTHER

Requirements for Degree:

1. Can be member or non member.
2. Must have attained all previous degrees.
3. Must have assisted three other campers to attain degrees.
4. Must have taught at least three campers how to swim.
5. Must be able to swim using all three strokes (breast, crawl, and side.) Surface dive. Swim under water.
6. Must be able to paddle a canoe and demonstrate safety measures.
7. Must have attended six previous camping sessions.
8. Demonstrate how to select a camp site and the use of outdoor shelters.
9. Camp Cooking: a. Prepare a meal while camping out. This should be a survival cookout meal. b. Foodstuffs gathered from the area of camp site.
10. Prepare a paper on each of the following:
  1. Nature
  2. Soil and Water Conservation
  3. Wildlife Management
  4. ForestryBe able to discuss these four subjects.
11. Prepare a survival kit.
12. Conduct a class in any of the following:
  1. Game Management
  2. Fish Management
  3. Hyacinth Control
  4. Rules and Regulations of the Game Commission●



# FLORIDA BIRDLIFE— Ibis, Spoonbill, Heron and Cattle Egret



## Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*

A white plumaged egret with brownish tint on the neck and shoulder regions. Both the bill and the legs are yellow.

Formerly a bird known only from the Old World, specimens of the cattle egret were sighted a few years ago in British Guiana. Since 1952 they have been recorded in the United States, first from Massachusetts and New Jersey and later from Florida, specifically in the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee.

The species appears to be well established as a year around resident in the southern part of the state. They are most often sighted in close association with herds of cattle.

## Louisiana Heron

*Hydranassa tricolor*

A medium sized heron with long, snake-like neck and long bill. The under parts and rump are contrastingly white, the most noticeable identification characteristics.

This is a common resident species in Florida and nesting activities have been recorded for all parts of the state.

## Little Blue Heron *Florida caerulea*

The dark body, maroon head and neck, dark legs and relatively heavy bluish bill with black tip are identification points for adults of this species. Young birds are white plumaged which causes them to be mistaken for the snowy egret although the bicolored bill and dull greenish legs of the little blue readily separate the two species. (The snowy egret's feet are bright yellow, the legs and bill black.)

In Florida, the little blue is often the most common heron encountered about the fresh water marshes and ponds although they are observed in considerable numbers in salt marsh areas as well.

## Wood Ibis *Mycteria americana*

A large, white bird with black tail and dark wing quills. The adults

have a bare, scaly head and neck, dark in color. They are commonly called "ironheads."

The wood ibis is quite common in many localities throughout the state, although they are not as numerous in the northern sections as they are in the more southerly parts. In flight, the fully outstretched neck and legs immediately separate the ibis from the herons.

## White Ibis *Guara alba*

The plumage of the adult is entirely white except for the ends of the four outer primary wing feathers. Legs and bare skin areas of the face are orange-red to bright carmine. The juvenile birds are brownish streaked with white on head and neck, and white under parts, lower back, and upper tail coverts. The wings are uniform brown.

The species occurs throughout the state but is generally more numerous

(Continued on Next Page)



(Continued from Preceding Page)

from central Florida southward.

### Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

The large, flattened spatula-like bill and the beautiful rose-pink and white plumage of the adult spoonbill make this one of the most distinctive birds of the state. The plumage of the immature birds is white.

Formerly the roseate spoonbill was a rather common resident throughout much of the state, at least as far north as St. Marks. It is now seldom encountered far from the Everglades National Park at the southern end of the peninsula where there is a sizeable rookery on Cow Pens Key. ●

## BEASTLY, FISHY AND FOWL

(Continued from Page 29)

a *snail's* pace," just "*worming* his way along," "*like a bird with clipped wings*," and "*as deaf as an adder*."

"The *bird* has flown," and "the *chicken* flew the coop" are popular phrases that can be summed up in one word—escape.

No one likes "to live like *cats* and *dogs*," but prefers to be "*like birds* in their nest, agree." To "put up one's *horses* together" denotes harmony, but for "the *lion* to lie down with the *lamb*" means utter peace, even though they are not "*birds* of a feather."

That smug, complacent look sometimes seen is perfectly described in the phrase "*like the cat that ate the canary*."

To be sure no male of the human species will admit that he is "*hen-pecked*." Nor does the married male ever "*cast a sheep's eye*" at some "*wolf-whistle bait*," but "*sticks like a leech*" at home, "*going around like a horse in the mill*," or a "*bee in a bottle*." However, a fellow is never able "to get all the *coons* up one tree!"

"To have a *wolf* by the ears" is to be in a dangerous position, while "this is, indeed, a pretty kettle of *fish*," is merely embarrassing, but enough to cause one "to turn the

color of a *lobster*." "To tree the *coon*" means a problem is solved, but "that *cock* won't fight" indicates the failure of a plan.

Very often a multitude of people are likened to "a swarm of *bees*," and when in limited quarters they are just "*like sardines* packed in a box," and "don't have room enough to swing a *cat*."

Doubtless each one of us might have avoided many unpleasant experiences IF we had heeded the admonition of these homely proverbs: "*Bees* that have honey in their mouths also have stings in their tails;" "*The fox* barks not when he would steal the *lamb*;" "*If you play with cats* you can expect to feel their claws;" "*A horse* is neither better nor worse for his trappings;" "*It is a foolish sheep* that makes the *wolf* his confessor;" and "*He that has been bitten by a serpent* looks before putting his foot in grass."

Now if you, the reader, "have other *fish* to fry" and can't give my efforts the *lion's* share" of your attention, just say that the "*poor fish*"—"he aimed at a *pigeon* but hit a *crow*," give me "*the horse laugh*," and "*bring on your bears!*" (Invitation to adversary to do his worst!) ●

## FLORIDA WEASEL

(Continued from Page 25)

Weasels inhabiting cold northern regions change color in winter, becoming white with a black tail tip. In this pelage they are called "*ermine*," and are trapped extensively. The Florida variety does not turn white during the cold season, but I think it does become a few shades lighter. At least, the lightest colored Florida weasels I've ever seen were found in January or February. In our state weasels are not trapped commercially, but occasionally they blunder into 'coon sets and so are taken. However, the value of the Florida weasel lies not in its fur but in its rodent-killing habits. ●

## SCHOOL IN THE WOODS

(Continued from Page 7)

phur to discourage ticks from attaching themselves to the hikers.

Johnny Seay, Director of Instruction for Marion County, had his class map an area of the forest for the hiking classes to follow.



Janice Cordrey is surprised at catching this large golden shiner on a worm. Shiners are not choice food fish but this one put up a mighty fight.

The carefully laid cook fires were lighted at 1100 to insure a good bed of coals by noon.

The school lunch room packed hamburger meat, potatoes, aluminum foil, salt, pepper, etc. for the noon meal. Each student wrapped his hamburger and potatoes in foil and cooked them in the hot coals. Several mothers and fathers joined the group for lunch and afternoon classes.

The return trip to the school was made at 2:30 P. M. Added to the load were lizzards, bugs, snails and fish the students had collected.

The only reward for the teachers were the thoughts that their efforts in this outdoor program had helped to make sixty-eight boys and girls become better conservationists. ●





**FISHING WITH NATURAL INSECTS**, by Alvah Peterson. 176 pages, extensively illustrated with photographs and line drawings. Published by the author, Alvah Peterson, 2039 Collingswood Road, Columbus 21, Ohio. Regular price \$6.00; special price to FLORIDA WILDLIFE readers, \$4.75. Order direct from the author.

By vocation, Alvin Peterson is Professor of Entomology at The Ohio State University in Columbus. By avocation he is an angler and firm advocate of what he terms "relaxed fishing"—dabbling natural baits for a variety of game and pan fishes.

Not completely satisfied with the variable results obtained from the use of the three most commonly accepted natural baits—earthworms, crayfish and minnows—he began investigating the possibilities of other baits. He took a page from his boyhood experiences when he and his youthful companions, on their way to the river, collected grasshoppers, crickets, or caterpillars for bait and enjoyed both a relaxing and productive day along the stream. With this background he combined his present-day professional knowledge of adult and larval insects which provide a great percentage of the normal food of the freshwater fishes. The results were both interesting and rewarding.

**FISHING WITH NATURAL INSECTS** is the result of Mr. Peterson's experiences in presenting to the fish what they ordinarily encounter, or could encounter, in the way of food in their home waters. In this book the reader will find a wealth of information on the insects themselves as well as practical ideas on collecting, trans-

porting, rearing, preserving, and using them for bait.

An excellent and practical handbook opening up new vistas for the confirmed bait fisherman.

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**WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT**, by William F. Sigler. 318 pages, illustrated with photographs and sample legal forms. Published by Wm. C. Brown Co. Inc., Dubuque, Iowa. Price \$4.50.

**WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT** is the first comprehensive treatment of this highly important phase of modern fish and game management. The text is addressed to three groups; the professional wildlife workers; students of wildlife course looking to the wildlife service as an interesting and promising career; and sportsmen, often the most ardent lay supporters of a wildlife law enforcement program, who will gain a better understanding of the enforcement officer's viewpoints and duties.

Because each state has a separate and distinct set of laws and regulations governing the managing and taking of fish and game, discussion of subject matter deals essentially with the fundamentals and general principles involved.

The book is not intended to be a legal document and, as the author points out, it should not be accepted as such. In order to help the reader not schooled in law to obtain a quick and lucid view of the whole picture of wildlife law enforcement, extreme technical treatment has been avoided.

The author has made liberal use of both actual and hypothetical incidents and situations involving law violations, plus brief accounts of court cases and rulings.

The first chapter points up the need for adequate wildlife laws and effective enforcement through a historical review of wildlife management and present-day practices. The legal basis for the various state and federal laws comprise the material for the following three chapters. Also treated in the book are problems of wildlife law violation by minors, adults, and members of certain American Indian groups; discussion of the officer's qualifications and professional preparation; departmental procedures; use of code books and indices, legal and technical problems involved in making the arrest; the reserve-warden system; details of courtroom practices and procedures, evidence, and a commentary on the possible future status of the wildlife enforcement program.

Three appendices concern definitions and legal terms; forms, charts, and specifications used in wildlife law violations; and a bibliography of material detailing various aspects of the field.

**WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT** is recommended reading for both sportsmen and professional wildlife workers.

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**FRESHWATER FISHERY BIOLOGY (Second Edition)**, by Karl F. Lagler. 421 pages, 184 figures. Published by Wm. C. Brown, Inc., Dubuque, Iowa. Price \$6.75.

This is a revised and enlarged edition of the popular and widely used text and reference for students, teachers, outdoor writers and professional workers in the field of freshwater fisheries in North America. It is also used in foreign countries as a source of information on the commonly used methods and basic ideas and practices currently effecting fish research and management in the United States and Canada. Serious anglers, commercial fishermen, fish culturists will find much information of interest and value included.

In order to facilitate utility and understanding, 214 figures are given,

(Continued on Next Page)



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mostly as halftones; text-figures illustrate important food and game fishes.

The early chapters of the book deal with aspects of fish biology fundamental to successful manipulation of fisheries for greater sustained harvest; natural history and ecology, identity, literature, embryology, food, age and growth, population, yield, diseases and pollution. Treatment is then given to the role in management of laws, artificial propagation and stocking, fishery surveys, environmental improvement, and creation of new fishery waters.

The principal methods and gear employed in the commercial and sport fisheries are subsequently detailed. All chapters are well-documented as an aid to further study of the various phases detailed.

The wealth of information presented makes this book a must for the professional fisheries worker, student of ichthyology, and all others with a serious interest in the fisheries resources of the country. ●

## ECONOMY SIZE

(Continued from Page 21)

your fingers or toes, brother, you've had it.

Experienced crabbers are always wary of those claws, and I saw one barefoot gal make a beautiful standing broad jump over the bait-well and into the bow of the boat, when her husband dropped a big fellow at her feet.

One of the nice things about this sport is the beauty of the surroundings. In the various springs, particularly, the water is so clear, the sand bottom so beautiful and the forests of ribbon grass, where the crabs like to hide wave like banners in the running water.

You drift to a likely looking spot and stop. In a few minutes you will see a crab come scuttling along. You drop your bait in, and here, unlike in the rivers, you can see him take



"Man! How's this for a second honeymoon!"

the bait. Of course this works two ways: He can see you more easily too, and those big bug-eyes of his are pretty sharp.

The man who has the job of netting them has little time to catch them, if the others in the boat start pulling them in too fast. It is a fine idea to catch the first one yourself, then by the time the netter has that one in the bucket, you can have your line back in the water, and maybe have another one ready for him before he can get started. I would not recommend overworking this angle though; it just might backfire.

Now that you have caught your dinner, you must prepare it for cooking, and that is something you must learn too. You would not want to have the experience of the woman from the mid-west, who was visiting in Texas. (They do have crabs in Texas, but even they can't make them as big as ours.) This woman was taken on her first crabbing trip and managed to get a bucketful to take back to her hostess.

Since the hostess was a novice too, they did not know just what to do

with them. So, she called the folks who had taken her out and explained, frantically, that she had put them on to cook, but they would not stay in the kettle until it boiled, and they were chasing her all over the kitchen.

So just in case you happen not to know, here's how: Of course you must bring 'em back alive. Put a large kettle of water on the fire, salted or not, as you prefer, and bring it to a full boil. Drop the crabs in, and when the water boils again, cook them for about ten minutes.

When they are cool enough to handle, everyone goes to work. You pull off the feelers and discard them. Break off the claws and put them aside for cracking. Hook your finger under the "hinge" on the under side and open it, and the top shell will come off. Clean out the lights, preferably under running water, then break the body in two pieces for easier handling.

Now you can crack the claws and get the meat out, and pick all the white meat from the bodies, and you are ready to cook up any of the dozens of fancy crab meat dishes you like.

But for the very tops in good eating, this is it: Spread a thick layer of newspapers on the kitchen table; put a big pile of the claws and bodies in the middle. Add a bowl of melted butter and have some lemon juice handy, then fall to and enjoy the most delicious treat you ever had.

There are two schools of thought on the best way to go about it. Some people like to pick out the meat and eat as they pick. Others like to pile up a substantial plateful, and then start in. It is a matter of choice, but the latter way has its drawbacks if you happen to have undisciplined characters around. By the time you have enough to start on, someone may reach over your shoulder and, so to speak, take the food right out of your mouth. It is just a question of knowing who your friends are.

But no matter how you prepare them and eat them, one thing is certain: When you catch the large economy size, even you do not have to lie about them. ●



# MEET YOUR COMMISSION



CLAUD J. HICKS

Northwest Region

Claud Hicks became a Wildlife Officer with the Commission on June 1, 1948 and has been serving the Washington County area since that date. Before joining the Game Commission, Claud was a farmer and worked for the Florida State Road Department.

Claud and his wife, the former Hattie Cook, live in Vernon where he is president of the Lions Club, a member of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and an officer in the Masonic Lodge.

They have six children — Clifton, 32; Catherine, 27; Clara, 22; Claud, Jr., 18; Clinton, 15, and Carol Ann, 12.



JOHN E. MILLER

Northwest Region

Born and raised in Walton County, John Miller has served that area as a Wildlife Officer since November 20, 1946. Prior to joining the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, John was the supervisor of transportation for the Walton County School Board.

John and his wife, the former Faye Mitchell of Sneeds, now live in Freeport where he is an active member of the Walton County Sportsmen's Association. They have three children, Rovee Jean, 20; Geraldine, 26; and Ronald, 24.

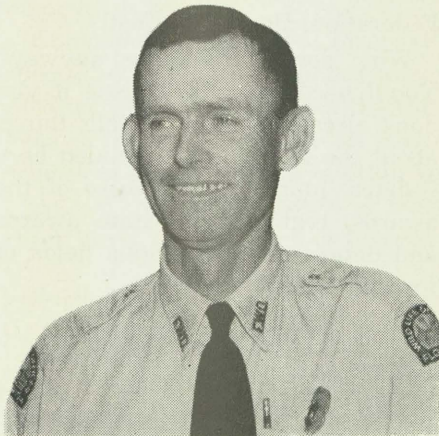


IRVING MACEO LANGSTON

Northwest Region

"Maceo" Langston was employed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission on September 15, 1948, and serves as a Wildlife Officer in Wakulla County.

Maceo, his wife, the former Minnie Lee Champion of Crawfordville, and their two children, Sandra Lee, 16, and James Francis, 6, live near Smith Creek where he was born and raised.

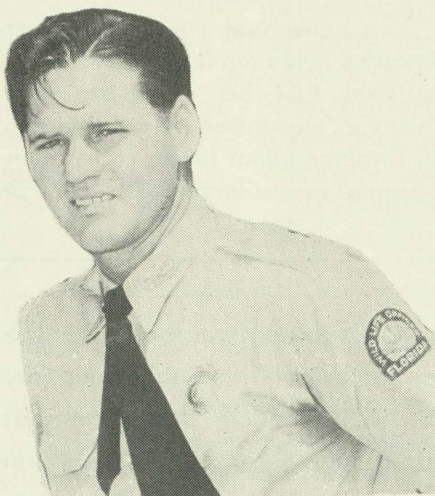


JOE BENNETT PICKLES

Northwest Region

Wildlife Officer Joe Pickles joined the Game Commission as a Wildlife Officer for Jefferson County on April 15, 1951. He was later transferred to Gadsden County where he now serves.

Formerly employed by the State Road Department, Joe and his wife, the former Jeanette Jacobs of Madison, now reside in Quincy. They have nine children, Alex, 23; Muriel, 22; Eugene, 19; Kenneth, 21; Marylin, 17; Jack, 16; Blanch, 14; Dale, 12; and Victor, 5.



GRADY W. PHELPS

Central Region

Employed by the Game Commission on August 1, 1954, Grady Phelps serves as a Wildlife Officer in the Ocala National Forest.

A veteran of the Korean conflict during which he served as a corporal with the U.S. Marine Corps, Phil is married to the former Hattie Barron of Chiefland. They have two children, Debbie Ann, age 2, and Grady Alan, age four months.



PHILLIP WILLIAM PHILLIPS

Hyacinth Control Division

Flying Wildlife Officer Phil Phillips was employed by the Commission as a hyacinth control spray pilot on September 1, 1951. A veteran of World War II, Phil served with the U.S. Air Force as a gunner and photographer. He received his flight training at the Tropical School of Aviation and later attended the Woodward School of Photography.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Phil is married to the former Jessie Thompson of Oldtown. They and their four children, Phillip Raymond, Susan Marie, Garry, and Shirley, make their home at Williston.

Phil's active hobbies include hunting and fishing, sports writing and the breeding and training of bird dogs.



# FEDERATION NOTES

**I**F YOU KNOW somebody who's doing a particularly good job in forest conservation, you may be just the person to get him the recognition he deserves. You can do this by nominating him for a Florida Sportsmen's Clubs Foresters award.

If you read the April issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*, you already know something about these awards. They're sponsored by the Sears Foundation under the auspices of the Florida Wildlife Federation. The idea is to encourage outstanding conservation work by recognizing those who do it.

Don't let the name "foresters award" make you think it's just for professionals. As a matter of fact, it's for everybody *but* professionals. The rules say only those *not* primarily employed in the field of forestry are eligible for the award.

Some of the best candidates for your nomination are landowners, school teachers, Scout and other youth group leaders, and people who help enforce the forest protection laws.

The rules list four fields of activity which may lead to a foresters award. They are forest management, education, legislation and law

enforcement, and research and development. Any other activity which results in "an outstanding contribution to forest conservation" will also be considered for an award.

Let's draw up a hypothetical case to illustrate the workings of the foresters award program. Say you know a man who has taken a lot of interest in his trees. You think he might qualify for an award under the forest management activity of the foresters award program. To qualify for that award, the work must be of value, not solely to himself, but to others as well. The rules for the forest management activity say the work must be "widely recognized, and influential in bringing about better forest management over a large area."

Remember that other qualification, too—he can't be *primarily* in the field of forestry.

You know that your man is primarily a field crop farmer and you're satisfied that his work has been "widely recognized and influential in bringing about better forest management over a large area." How do

you go about nominating him?

The nomination has to go to the local club sponsoring the program. This is usually an affiliate club of the Florida Wildlife Federation, but it might also be a garden club, a forestry group, a civic organization, or a farm bureau.

If you know who your local sponsoring club is, make your nomination to them.

Right now the local club organization for the awards is in a formative stage, so there may not yet be a sponsoring club in your locality or you might not know who it is. In that case, you can make your nomination directly to this magazine or to Mr. T. N. Anderson at Eustis.

If you write to this magazine, address Foresters Award, *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* Magazine, Tallahassee. Mr. Anderson's address is T. N. Anderson, Secretary, Florida Wildlife Federation, Box 1179, Eustis.

Why don't you write anyway? You'll need that April issue if you don't already have it. It tells things about the awards not included here—dates, judging, the nature of the awards, regional and state awards and details on the various fields of forestry activity. ●

Rules governing the specialized programs for the Public Relations, Soil Conservation, Outdoor Writers, Game and Fresh Water Fish Conservation, Forestry, and Salt Water Conservation appeared in the March and April issues of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*. Additional information and applications may be obtained by writing to Florida Wildlife Federation, Box 1179, Eustis, Florida.



Regional and local club winners will receive a gold label button in the shape of Florida with the words I CONSERVE imprinted on it.



Winners of the Governor's State awards will receive a gold label button in the shape of Florida with GOVERNOR'S AWARD imprinted on it.



# SKYLAND ANIMALS

By J. CASEY

**A**NIMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES, insects and fishes with which we are familiar are almost constantly on the move. Old ones die and young ones take their places. *Skyland* animals differ considerably to all others in that they never die, and throughout the centuries have remained in the same positions!

These dwellers in the sky are the most famous of all creatures because they have played leading roles in the greatest works of literature. These unusual beasts and birds have been painted by the world's great masters. They have also been reproduced in precious gems, and chiseled in stone, and have inspired artists to record them in music and song.

How did these animals originate? Well, the origin of the legends dates far back into ancient times when people looked up into the sky and named parts of it for the creatures they knew best. These groups of stars bearing the fanciful names became known as the constellations.

It is interesting to note that of the eighty-eight constellations, forty-five of them are named for zoological subjects. Another interesting fact is that in most cases the outlines formed by the stars bear no resemblance whatsoever to the animals after which the groups were named.

This, however, is not so strange when we think of it this way—many cities, mountains and streams are named for various animals, yet the place does not look similar to the particular animal for which it was named.

Constellations served as forms of memorials, and the species of animals so honored were those native to the Mediterranean region, with the exception of a few star groups that were named at later dates in honor of species of animals found in other sections of the globe.

All naturalists, regardless of whether his preference is for birds, animals, fish or insects will be able to find

his favorite species among the skyland animals.

The birds in this vast zoo include: The Owl, (*Noc-tua*), Toucan (*Tucana*), Dove (*Columba*), Crow (*Cor-vus*), Swan (*Cygnus*), Crane (*Grux*), and the Eagle (*Aquila*).

There is a varied assortment of animals, both large and small. There are two bears, the Great Bear (*Ursa Major*), and the Little Bear, (*Ursa Minor*). Then there is Leon, the Lion, Lupus, the Wolf, and a Fox, Hare and Giraffe.

The domesticated animals were not forgotten when honors were given to star groups, because there are: A Little Horse, the Great Dog, the Little Dog, and a Ram. The students in herpetology will find interest in hunting down a Serpent, a Dragon, and a Cham-eleon. While those making a study of the invertebrates will find a Fly and a Scorpion.

The Crab, the Flying Fish, Dorado (Goldfish) Dolphin, a Southern Fish, two other Fish, and the Whale will be sure to attract the attention of all those who are interested in angling.

Then there are star arrangements which were named for mythological creatures, but which were as real to the ancients as were the living animals. In this unique group are: The Winged Horse, (*Pegasus*) the Goat-fish, (*Capricornus*) the beautiful Phoenix bird which has appeared in so many legends, the Centaur, or Man-horse and the Unicorn.

The Indians fancied the bowl of the Big Dipper was a stretcher on which a sick man was being carried, and the faint star near the handle was the faithful dog of the sick man.

Another unusual thing about these Skyland Ani-mals, they may be seen throughout the world, no mat-ter where one may be.

A telescope is a great help in studying the animals of the heavenly zoo, but not a necessity. Any one can derive much pleasure by looking at stars and locating various groups with the naked eye.

Many outdoorsmen becoming lost have been able to find their way because of a knowledge of the stars. ●

## MOTH COLLECTING

(Continued from Page 37)

GUIDE TO INSECTS, available from: American Nature Association, 1214 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washing-ton, D.C. (\$4.50), is a valuable aid in identifying moths.

The serious collector can also add perfect specimens to a collection by searching for cocoons during the late summer and throughout the winter months. Collected cocoons are placed inside a cardboard box covered with a piece of screen or a sheet of glass. In the spring when the moths

emerge, one not only has the oppor-tunity to witness, first-hand, one of nature's most amazing wonders, but with care, some of the most perfect and unfaded moths will become part of the collection.

Another way of adding perfect specimens to a collection, is to raise the larvae (caterpillars) one may find. Not only is this exciting, for you frequently do not know just what kind of moth will develop from the larvae you discover, but it is highly educational.

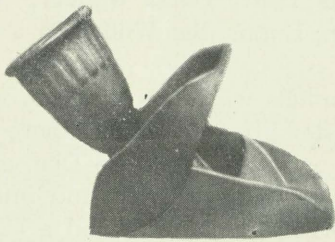
To raise larvae to the cocoon stage,

merely cut off some of the leaves upon which you find it feeding—place both the larva and the leaves inside a box, and continue to supply the larva with fresh food once every two days.

Several larvae placed upon a leafy branch which is then covered with a large piece of cloth netting ma-terial, such as old curtains, saves the trouble of keeping them sup-plied with fresh food; provided, of course, that you tie the netting bag-like over the branch so that they cannot escape. ●



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS

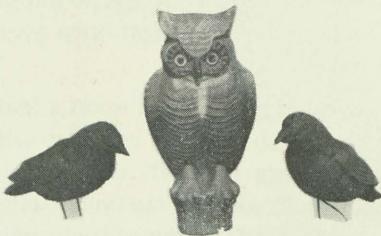


IF you are a model maker, or make your own bows and arrows for Florida archery activity, or work on gun stocks or shape fishing rods from blanks, or otherwise work with wood and other materials than can be planed, you will find many uses for the tiny, but very practical Wil-Kro Razor Planer that makes use of double-edged safety razor blades.

With the handy device many planing jobs can be performed that would otherwise require a high priced planer or cutting tool. FWFT&T does not contend that the Wil-Kro Razor Planer will replace the standard carpenter's planer for all purposes, but it does serve the user in a number of ways and in some cases proves easier to use and more efficient than larger tools. This is especially true when making model airplanes, when cutting soft woods of small size and when shaving edges of narrow cabinet doors, shelves, moldings, etc. Naturally, such a small size, single-finger-pushed plane has its limitations, depending on the hardness of wood and the size of job, but a little experimenting will soon reveal to the user many applications.

Razor blades in the leading brands are usually made of high grade steel, and their usually convenient availability and low cost make it possible to always have a sharp cutting edge to assist with small planing jobs.

If you cannot find the Wil-Kro Razor Planer at your local hardware store, order from Craft Master Tool Co., 23440 Lakeland Blvd., Cleveland 23, Ohio. In several shapes, \$1.98 and \$2.98.



**RECENT** feature articles on varmint hunting and crow shooting have brought many requests for sources of supply for owl and crow decoys.

FWFT&T does not know where live owls

and crows can be had in numbers and price comparable to popular demand—and, from experience, does not recommend their caged keeping—but calls attention to the fact that Sears, Roebuck and Company catalogs a crow shooting kit that is lifelike, convenient to carry and set up and inexpensive in price.

The kit of decoys consists of two lifesize, realistically painted, molded fibre crow figures and one owl figure, packaged in a recessed cardboard box that serves as a carrying and storage container. The owl figure was designed from an actual great horned owl, for a truly lifelike decoy reproduction.

All three decoys are molded in one-piece, weather-resistant fibre, and provided wire feet permit setting up the crow figures in a variety of lifelike positions.

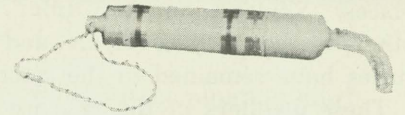
The Sears' product probably is made for them by The General Fibre Company, since the two brands are identical, but the Sears' kit is considerably cheaper—\$4.48 in the catalog.

Thousands of new crow shooters are declaring war every day on these scavengers to wildlife and crops, and crow shooting is fast becoming a major national sport. Florida—fortunately, or unfortunately from your viewpoint, depending on whether or not you are a crow shooter or farmer—has thousands of crows, and there is no closed hunting season on any of them.

FWFT&T recommends the purchase and use of several kits, to obtain a good decoy set of six or more crows. Where individual investment in multiple units is not financially possible, several shooters can purchase single kits, combine the decoys for an impressive setup and shoot over them as a group or organized club.



"Now here's a life-like fly."



**WHETHER** for reasons attending careful purchase of a used firearm, of safety, out of curiosity or as an inspection of the progress of an attempted bore cleaning job, the shooter frequently finds it desirable to get illumination and visibility within the narrow tube represented by a gun barrel—and the smaller the caliber or gauge of the firearm, the smaller the viewing hole and degree of visibility.

To get desired illumination for barrel inspections, shooters have long held barrels up to an electric light or blue sky, or used a coin or thumbnail to reflect light from the breech end.

When inspecting a rifle, pistol or shotgun bore, it is both important that the bore be dry and free from traces of oil and properly illuminated for close examination all along its length. Even a slight film of oil or grease in a firearm's bore can cover up a multitude of bore defects and create a false impression to the examining eye.

FWFT&T has used all sorts of devices for getting needed light in gunbores, but has never found anything that equals the Gun Bore Light, product of the company of that name, P. O. Box 2705, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The unit consists of a single cell, pen-size flashlight that, in body, greatly resembles a woman's lipstick case, but the bulb end of the Gun Bore Light has a screw-on cap incorporating a curved, clear lucite plastic tube. Such tubes have long been used by dentists and other members of the medical profession for getting illumination where most needed. With the plastic tube and metal cap assembly unscrewed, the little light becomes a handy pocket or purse light, for finding door keys, proper change at night and similar uses. Both battery and bulb are replaceable.

A swivel and chain fastener on one end of the Gun Bore Light permits carrying it handily on one's key ring or hanging it on a nail in the gun cabinet.

Besides its intended, basic use, the Gun Bore Light will serve you in countless other ways.

A very good investment at \$1.35! There is nothing cheap-looking about the handy unit, and you, too, will have nothing but praise for it once you've used it.

You'll probably have to write to the manufacturer for yours; so far, FWFT&T has not seen this new and very practical accessory in Florida stores.



## MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 11)

pleasure of its use. Quality pads, like the Pachmayr, Mershon, Jostam and Red Head brands last a long time before they begin to glaze and harden — as all rubber pads do in time — and require replacement.

But installing a recoil pad is not simply a matter of unscrewing the butt plate, or old pad, and screwing on the new one. Where a gun fits its user, original overall length of gun-stock should be maintained. Too short stocks can be lengthened by the addition of a recoil pad of needed thickness; or a matching walnut blank, with the grain running in the direction of the stock, can be shaped, glued and screwed to the butt of the factory stock, and then the old butt plate replaced to hide the heads of the extra screws.

Quite preferably, an installed recoil pad, or stock extension, should be sanded and buffed on an abrasive-polishing wheel until it matches the parent stock in neat fit and appearance.

In some cases, gun stocks will have to be shortened before a recoil pad is added; overall length of a stock is too long if the stock tends to catch on your clothing as you shoulder your gun. To the shot-gunner, especially, gun fit is very important!

If you're the one firearm owner in every three whose equipment needs attention, don't delay getting it serviced. Hunting season is closer than you think! ●

## THE TREE SNAIL

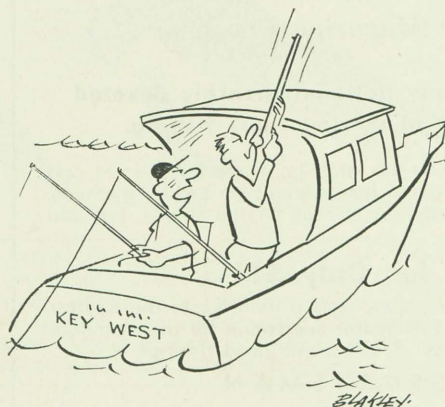
(Continued from Page 23)

like all others of its kind, must have moisture to survive. Finding a secure place in its tree, the snail secretes a clear sticky substance that glues it to its perch and also hermetically seals the clammy body of the

snail inside the shell in life-sustaining dampness. Should the winter be mild and unusually rainy, the snail will emerge from its hibernation and eat rapaciously until winter drought makes it retire into its moist retreat.

The spring rains wake the tree snail which immediately sets about satisfying its hunger of months. Down in the ground life stirs too. After six months the eggs hatch and from every nest a line of pink and white babies break through the leafmold and head straight for a food tree. Although they are able to crawl and eat as well as their elders the pastel babies face a crucial first month. The weather may be capricious and drought will kill many of them. Birds will be the next most dangerous threat. But those that are left will soon start growing rapidly, adding many colors to the pink or white spire with which each snail is born.

The tree snails' eyesight is not very keen but their sense of smell is excellent. Somehow they can detect the approach of severe storms and hurricanes and will beat a hasty (for a snail) retreat to the comparative safety of the ground. As with other snails, the highway that Liguus lays down for itself with slime makes all surfaces the same. Without apparent harm Liguus can cross long stretches of thin wire, upright razor blades, etc. For many persons living in extreme south Florida and being fortunate enough to have acceptable food trees, the Florida Tree Snail is a fascinating pet. ●



"Oh forget it! He didn't do it on purpose."

## THOSE BUSY BEES

(Continued from Page 15)

take over, each queen does all her hive chores.

The tongues of bumblebees are much longer than those of honeybees and, consequently, are very helpful in pollenizing our clovers and alfalfa crops. Even the long-tubed columbine flower, that secretes its nectar deeply, is outsmarted by the bumblebees. Momentarily nonplussed by the long tube leading to the flower's nectar chamber, the bumblebees go behind the flower and cut into its nectar reservoir from the rear.

Some of Florida's most successful black bass fisherman make very practical, but perhaps somewhat heartless, use of the common bumblebee. The procedure involves sticking a large funnel in the mouth of a clear glass gallon jug, and then walking about a flower garden knocking bees into the funnel with cap or hat. Once he has accumulated two or three dozen bees, the bass fisherman caps the jug and hurries to the spot he plans to fish. There, he silently sinks the still-capped jug with its imprisoned bees, and marks the spot with a float just as a lobster or crab trapper marks his baited rigs. Two or three hours later, the Florida bass expert quietly returns and begins fishing. Usually he will take several inquisitive bass that have been attracted by the bumblebees buzzing around inside the jug.

If left to themselves, many hived bees would undoubtedly revert to natural instinct and seek hollow trees for homes. In fact, many do, and seekers of strayed colonies or long established wild "bee trees" make unique use of a box of diluted honey to locate such domiciles. Taken into the woods, or suspected hive area, the box of diluted honey is opened and left "on treat" when a bee is sighted. Flight lanes of incoming and departing bees are noted and followed until they converge

(Continued on Next Page)



(Continued from Preceding Page)

on the hive and their congested presence reveals the hive's location. Generally, a bee in flight will take the shortest or most direct course on the return trip to the hive.

Favored by a sunny climate and an abundance of nectar-filled plants, and bolstered by an already established national market for processed honey, Florida is in a position to expand both its honey product industry and its marketing of packaged bees for starting new apiaries.

Average cost of a new hive of bees with all necessary equipment is between \$25 and \$30. Healthy bee stock is abundant and it is not necessary for the resident Floridian to send outside the state for starting stock. Even inexperienced beekeepers can expect a minimum annual yield of 40 to 50 pounds of honey per hive.

The lot of the Florida beekeeper is not all sweetness and profit, however. Even when an operator maintains only the hives and contracts with a commercial outlet to harvest his crop, he must give close attention to maintaining normal, healthy conditions within hives. His chief problems are prevention or control of swarming and protection of hives in winter. Although coldblooded, bees need protection against freezing weather, even in a comparatively mild winter climate like Florida's.

Civilization—clearing of land and creation of more honeyless crops and grass pastures—also affects the beekeeper's lot.

Where nectar plants are scarce in a hive home area, as may easily happen in certain seasons, or when the beekeeper wishes to take advantage of an early blossoming season in another section of the state, hives must be transported to distant locations. Should water—a most essential element to the honeybees in their diet and manufacture of honey—be scarce within the working area of the hives, the beekeeper must create an artificial source. One apiarist recently stated that his 75 hives of bees will consume two full 60-gallon barrels of provided water each week.

As might be expected, some of the modern insecticides being sprayed on commercial crops and orchards and home flower gardens take a heavy toll of bee populations. Very destructive, beekeepers say, are plant and crop applications of such poisons that use parathion, dieldrin and the arsenicals as primary, active ingredients. Solutions basically composed of sulphur and toxaphene are considerably less poisonous to bees, it was explained. Whatever insecticide the home gardener or orchard owner uses, he will be doing the bees a favor if he applies it only between the hours of 7:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., the "at home" hours of

the field workers of the bee colonies.

It is interesting to reflect on the fact that although bees can be made sick and killed by encountered insecticides, the affected bees either voluntarily leave the colony, or, if by chance poisoned nectar is carried to the hive, the hive bees "screen" and reject the poisoned nectar as they accept incoming loads for storage in the combs.

Besides the danger from powerful insecticides sprayed by man for control of undesirable insects, bees face the dangers of birds—especially bee martins, larvae of wax moths, adult dragonflies, bee lice and tiny spores that cause "foul brood" disease within the hive. Foraging ants can be constant, lurking threats.

Ready to assist the new beekeeper in acquiring basic stock, technical knowledge and a commercial market for his honey harvests are such state groups and technical authorities as the Florida Beekeepers' Association, the State Plant Board, State Department of Agriculture and personnel of U. S. and Florida Agricultural Extension services.

John D. Haynie and Milledge Murphey, Jr., are co-authors of an excellent guidebook (Agri. Exten. Service Bulletin 151) for beginners in beekeeping. "Florida Beekeeping", a text authored by Entomologist Roger A. Moore for the State Plant Board—and free for the asking—is another recommended text.

Earlier blooming in Florida of many Southern plants, shrubs and crops has prompted beekeepers of Georgia and other neighboring states to move bees and combs into this state ahead of their own seasons, to share in Florida's bountiful honey harvest. To protect Florida bees from possibly acquiring infectious diseases from the winged transients, the Florida Plant Board requires both a certificate to transport and health certification of bee colonies brought into the state.

With scientists every day finding new uses for honey, and Florida's busy bees loyally gathering nectar most of each year, Florida's honey production future promises to be even sweeter! ●



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IMMATURE

OSPREY

SOARING FOR  
COMPARISON WITH OTHER  
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← WINGS FLAT  
AND STRAIGHT

EAGLE

VULTURE ← DIHEDRAL OR  
UPSWEPT WINGS

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